# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
15 June 2009—26 June 2009

# HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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* *Regional Ministers (in addition to other ministerial responsibilities)*
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Jonathan Shaw, MP (Minister for the South East)
The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP (Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber)
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# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 15 June 2009*

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### 16-19 Funding

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** Budget 2009 announced an additional investment of £655 million over the next two years to ensure that every young person aged 16 and 17 who wants to study or take up a training place will have their place guaranteed by the Government under the September Guarantee. £251 million of this investment is being used to fund 54,500 places and additional support for young people from this September, bringing our total investment in the education and training of young people to £6.8 billion in 2009-10.

In March, schools, colleges and other training providers told us that the allocations they had received would not meet the increase in local demand they were already experiencing or were expecting from September 2009. Budget 2009 now allows us to provide funding for the additional 32,000 learner places schools and colleges notified us of earlier in the spring, and to make provision for a further 22,500 learners who we expect will want a place in learning later this year. This is necessary for us to meet the September Guarantee.

I am today announcing the regional breakdown of the £77 million investment which is funding the further 22,500 places. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has recently notified schools, colleges and training providers of these allocations, which are focused on supporting young people who would otherwise be at risk of becoming NEET (not in employment, education or training).

Our investment means we have increased the number of places available this September and next by 54,500 to an all time high of more than 1.55 million. Together with the 17,500 apprenticeships places for young people announced by the Prime Minister, that is 72,000 young people more than were first set out in the LSC's annual statement of priorities in November 2008. This funding means that we can make sure that young people who are especially vulnerable have a suitable offer of a place by expanding the Entry to Employment programme by 13,000 places in 2009-10.

This is a huge investment in the skills of our young people to ensure that they can gain the skills and confidence to put them on the path to economic prosperity and to prepare the country so it is well placed for economic recovery with young people having the skills base it needs. We must make sure that every young person knows the wide range of education and training options open to them under the September Guarantee. We expect the Connexions service, schools, colleges and other providers to work with the local authorities to deliver the Guarantee.

We know that the recession will continue to have an impact on the choices being made by young people over the summer and may increase demand further for learning and training places. I have therefore asked the Association of School and College Leadership, the Association of Colleges and the LSC to monitor the situation and to report to me after the bulk of the recruitment for the 2009-10 academic year has taken place this September. This will also inform our plans for the 2010-11 academic year and will be crucial as we make the transition from the LSC to local authority led commissioning. I will then make a further assessment of the situation, with my Cabinet colleagues, to ensure all young people who want one can have a suitable place at school, college or training provider.

*Regional Analysis of 16-18 Allocation to Schools, Colleges and other Providers—Excluding Apprenticeships and Entry to Employment Provision (2009-10)*

| *Region* | *Post-Budget 09 Allocation (excludes E2E and apprenticeships)* | *Allocation of extra 22,540 places* | *Allocation of extra 22,540 places* |
|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | £313.9m | £9.3m | 2,766 |
| East Midlands | £204.3m | £4.9m | 1,464 |
| London | £1,479.5m | £6.8m | 1,841 |
| North East | £572.7m | £5.4m | 1,780 |
| North West | £914.0m | £13.8m | 4,199 |
| South East | £762.0m | £11.3m | 3,144 |
| South West | £365.5m | £7.8m | 2,281 |
| West Midlands | £462. lm | £5.8m | 1,532 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | £529.6m | £8.2m | 2,570 |
| *other* | *£ 17.2m* | *£3.7m* | *963* |
| *SEN* | *£193.0m* | *n/a* | |
| *TPG* | *£74.0m* | *n/a* | |
| *Academies* | *£112.0m* | *n/a* | |
| Grand Total | £5,999.7m | £77m | 22,540 |

*Notes* to table:
1. The matching to Local Authority and hence to Region is done on best fit and derived from post code of the head office of the providers to whom the allocation is made. It is possible for these providers to operate across more than one authority area, although there is no double counting of the funding allocations.
2. The figures by region do not include allocations for Entry to Employment provision or apprenticeships.
3. The figures by region do not include any allocations for Academies, SEN, or Teacher Pay Grant.
4. The total figures shown for SEN and Teachers Pay Grant are for the 2009-10 Financial Year as this is how this funding is allocated. As such they are not directly comparable to the other funding figures which are all 2009-10 Academic Year based.

## HEALTH

### Written Answer (Correction)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen):** I regret that the information given in my written answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 627, was incorrect.

Details of consultant-led and midwife-led maternity units have been placed in the Library.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Language Analysis

**The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas):** I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be nationals of Palestine or Kuwait submit to language analysis.

Language analysis carried out for some Somali asylum applicants demonstrates that significant proportions of those tested have claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that is not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. We are aware that a significant proportion of Palestinian and Kuwaiti claims also are from other nationalities. This new authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual Palestinian and Kuwaiti cases, and to ascertain the extent of abuse within these nationalities.

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his case or her case.

The authorisation will remain in place for 11 months (until April 2010), at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

I am placing a copy of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

### Control Order Powers (11 March 2009 - 10 June 2009)

**The Minister of State, Home Department (Mr. David Hanson):** Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

Control orders continue to be an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism, particularly where it is not possible to prosecute individuals for terrorism-related activity and, in the case of foreign nationals, where they cannot be removed from the UK.

As stated in previous quarterly statements on control orders, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that each individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold Control Order Review Groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During this reporting period, three CORGs were held in relation to the orders currently in force. In addition, further meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 March 2009 to 10 June 2009, five non-derogating control orders were made and served. Six control orders have been renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act. One control order against an individual was revoked prior to being quashed by the court. One further control order has been revoked on direction from the court. Two non-derogating control orders made but not served in the previous quarter have also been revoked and one control order made but not served in a previous quarter has expired.

In total, twenty control orders are currently in force, ten of which are in respect of British citizens. Six individuals subject to a control order live in the Metropolitan Police Service area; the remaining individuals live in other police force areas. All of these control orders are non-derogating. No prosecutions for breaching a control order were completed during this reporting period.

During this reporting period, 108 modifications of control order obligations were made. Twenty-four requests to modify control order obligations were refused. A right of appeal is provided for by section 10(1) of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. Six appeals have been lodged with the High Court by controlled persons in relation to the renewal of control orders during this reporting period. Three appeals have been lodged against decisions by the Secretary of State to modify obligations imposed by non-derogating control orders without consent. A right of appeal is also provided for by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against decisions by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order and/or to modify any obligation under the order. Two appeals have been lodged with the High Court by controlled persons relating to refusal to modify a control order.

Two judgments have been handed down by the High Court in control order cases during this reporting period in relation to substantive reviews of the individual control orders under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AT and AW* a judgment was handed down on 20 March 2009. The court ruled that the control order imposed on AT remains necessary and proportionate but quashed one obligation and directed the Secretary of State to amend another. In the case of *AW*, the court quashed the control order on the grounds that the decision to make the control order was made on a materially erroneous basis. A judgment was handed down in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AV* on 30 April 2009. The court directed the Secretary of State to revoke the order on the basis that recent events pertinent to the case meant the order was no longer necessary, although the High Court was satisfied that that the decisions to make the original control order and the renewed control order were necessary and not flawed.

One judgment was handed down by the High Court during this reporting period in relation to a modification appeal under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AM*, judgment was handed down on 23 March 2009. The court dismissed the appeal and upheld all obligations as necessary and proportionate.

One judgment was handed down by the High Court during this reporting period in relation to an application for interim relief pursuant to an application for judicial review, the purpose of which was to prevent the Secretary

of State from acting on a modification to a control order. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. BM*, the judgment handed down on 22 May 2009 refused injunctive relief and gave directions for the section 10(1) appeal against the modification.

Two controlled persons have applied for, and been granted, permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal against High Court judgments in this reporting period. The Secretary of State has also applied for, and been granted, permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal in relation to two control order cases.

As reported in the last written ministerial statement, the House of Lords heard the appeals in the cases of *AE, AF* and *AN* between 3 and 9 March 2009. The judgments, handed down on 10 June 2009, held that for control order proceedings to be compatible with article 6 of the ECHR, a controlled person must be given sufficient information about the allegations against him to allow him to give effective instructions in relation to those allegations. Provided that this requirement is satisfied there can be a fair trial notwithstanding that the controlled person is not provided with the detail or the sources of the evidence forming the basis of the allegations. Where, however, the open material consists purely of general assertions and the case against the individual is based solely or to a decisive degree on closed materials the requirements of a fair trial will not be satisfied, however cogent the case based on the closed materials may be. All three appeals were allowed and the cases will now be remitted to the High Court for this disclosure test to be applied.

Full judgments are available at: http://www.bailii.org/

## JUSTICE

### Ministry of Justice (Annual Report 2008-09)

**The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw):** I have today published, and laid before Parliament, the "Ministry of Justice Annual Report for 2008-09" (Cm 7600).

The report sets out the good progress we have made this year in meeting our mission of creating a just, safe and democratic society. It provides the first full year reporting of progress against our 2007 Public Service Agreement (deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive criminal justice system for victims and the public) and our departmental strategic objectives, and reports against targets set in the 2004 spending review that are still current. The report also includes our progress on implementing outstanding Public Accounts Committee recommendations.

## SCOTLAND

### Commission on Scottish Devolution

**The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Jim Murphy):** On behalf of the Government I welcome the publication today of the final report from the Commission on Scottish Devolution.

The Commission was set up by the Scottish Parliament and supported by the UK Government. The Commission's remit was:

> "to review the provisions of the Scotland Act 1998 in the light of experience and to recommend any changes to the present constitutional arrangements that would enable the Scottish Parliament to serve the people of Scotland better, improve the financial accountability of the Scottish Parliament, and continue to secure the position of Scotland within the United Kingdom."

The Commission, under the chairmanship of Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, have produced a detailed report, based on sound analysis, a robust evidence base and extensive engagement with people in Scotland. I welcome in particular the efforts the Commission made to engage as widely as possible, through public events across the country, through oral and written evidence, a public questionnaire and through their website.

I welcome their conclusion that the devolution settlement in Scotland has been "a remarkable and substantial success". We are approaching the 10th anniversary of the Scottish Parliament receiving full legislative competence, and there is broad support in Scotland and across the UK for the devolution settlement. The Scottish Parliament has established itself firmly in public life, bringing greater accountability to the people of Scotland, and innovation in both policy and working methods.

The Government agree with the Commission's conclusion that, in order to serve the people of Scotland better, and to secure the position of Scotland within the United Kingdom, the institutions of the United Kingdom and Scotland must be able to work together effectively. The Government have already taken steps to reinvigorate the Joint Ministerial Committee and to ensure close working with the Scottish Government, in particular in the face of the global economic downturn. We will consider the Commission's recommendations in this area carefully.

Ten years on, the Scottish Parliament needs to have the financial responsibilities to match its ambitions for Scotland. We asked the Commission to examine the options for improving financial accountability. The Commission outlines a new financial model that would give significantly more responsibility to the Scottish Parliament for decisions on tax and spending in Scotland. The Commission's model empowers and requires the Scottish Parliament to make a decision on the balance between taxes and public spending. Their recommendations draw from the work of Professor Anton Muscatelli's group of independent financial experts.

The Government agree that financial accountability could be achieved by moving to a system where a greater proportion of the Scottish Parliament's budget comes from their own decisions. We welcome the Commission's model which provides a promising and well-evidenced basis on which we can work with the Scottish Parliament and others to bring forward practical proposals. The suggested changes are complex, and require detailed and careful consideration. The Government will assess, and explore how to implement, these proposals. We agree with the Commission's recommendation that any change should be introduced in a phased way to manage the risks of instability in public finances and of windfall gains or shocks and will take this into account in developing proposals.

The Commission proposes further changes to the powers and functions of the Scottish Parliament, based on the work of a task group led by Sir David Edward. I am grateful for their careful consideration of this important area. Their work highlights the range and depth of responsibilities which the Scottish Parliament already has. They broadly endorse the existing settlement, but recommend adjustments. The Government are willing to adjust the devolution settlement, where there is benefit to the people of Scotland and where it will strengthen Scotland's place within the Union.

A steering group comprising parties involved in the Calman Commission process, chaired by myself, will help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

The Government warmly welcome this report, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and the Vote Office. I am grateful to Sir Kenneth and the members of his Commission for their work. I look forward to working with colleagues, partners and stakeholders here and in Scotland to take forward the report.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Social Security (Industrial Injuries) (Prescribed Diseases) Amendment Regulations 2009

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Helen Goodman):** The Social Security (Industrial Injuries) (Prescribed Diseases) Amendment Regulations 2009 have today been laid before Parliament. The regulations implement, from 13 July 2009, the recommendation set out in the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council's report—"Osteoarthritis of the knee in coal miners". The Command Paper (Cm 7440) was published in August 2008.

The recommendation made in the report was to add the disease osteoarthritis of the knee to the schedule of prescribed diseases. These regulations implement that recommendation.

This means that all coal miners who worked underground in coal mines for an aggregate of 10 years or more before 1986 can claim industrial injuries disablement benefit if they suffer from osteoarthritis of the knee. Work from 1986 onwards as a coal face worker at a non-mechanised coal face, and for certain other categories of work, can be included in the 10 years' qualifying period.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 16 June 2009*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Company Rescue Consultation

**The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden):** Yesterday we launched a consultation on measures aimed at enhancing further the rescue culture to give struggling, but viable, companies a greater chance to succeed, thus saving jobs and providing better returns to creditors. In particular, the proposals consider:

extending to medium and large-sized companies the option of a moratorium against creditor action — currently only available to small companies — so they too can have a "breathing space" in which they can seek to agree with their creditors a means of securing a company rescue by means of a company voluntary arrangement;

the introduction of a new court-sanctioned moratorium available to all companies, again to allow them time to reach agreement on a company voluntary arrangement; and

providing greater security to repayment of monies loaned post company voluntary arrangement or administration, to allow firms in difficulties more chance of accessing the funding they need to get back on track.

The proposals are part of the Government's business rescue measures that my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the 2009 Budget report earlier this year.

We intend actively to engage with stakeholders throughout the consultation, testing our assessment of the possible impacts of the policy proposals, and welcome views on whether this package is the best way of achieving our aim of making company and business rescue easier and more successful. The consultation closes on 7 September 2009.

A copy of the consultation document will be laid in each of the Houses of Parliament.

## TREASURY

### Tax Arrangement (UK/Cayman Islands)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms):** A new arrangement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Cayman Islands for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion was signed in London on 15 June 2009.

After signature, the text of the arrangement will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons shortly.

## DEFENCE

### Service Voter Registration

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones):** I have today placed in the Library of the House a copy of the report of a survey on service voter registration conducted by Defence Analytical Services and Advice in November 2008.

The MOD has continued to work with the Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Justice to improve awareness among our armed forces personnel and their families of their options on registering to vote. This survey was undertaken to provide an estimate of the numbers of service personnel who are currently registered to vote and to draw comparison with the results of similar surveys carried out in each of the previous three years. These surveys help us to judge how best to encourage service personnel to register in future.

I welcome the survey, as it provides the facts needed to refine future work. It indicates that 65 per cent. of service personnel are currently registered, compared with 69 per cent. in 2007 (a decrease that is assessed as not statistically significant), 63 per cent. in 2006 and 60 per cent. in 2005. Of those registered in 2008, the majority (75 per cent.) chose to register as ordinary rather than service voters. The level of voters registered as overseas voters has remained at 1 per cent.

We acknowledge that there is still work to be done. The results of the survey will help to indicate where our efforts should be concentrated for the future. By continuing to work closely with colleagues in the MOJ and the EC to understand what might be the reasons behind the results, we hope to make further improvements to the quality of information available to our service personnel and their families. We remain committed to improving arrangements for the service community to exercise their right to vote.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Coastal Change Policy

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** I would like to inform the House of a new coastal change fund that I am establishing. The fund, of up to £11 million, is designed to support communities in adapting to coastal change. I am inviting bids from local authorities interested in becoming coastal change pathfinders to pilot new approaches to planning for, and managing, change in partnership with their communities. Further details are set out in the "Coastal Change Policy" consultation which has also been published. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The consultation also seeks views on using the coastal change fund to enable coastal local authorities to help homeowners who lose a property to coastal erosion with demolition and moving costs. The consultation proposes that a grant of approximately £4,000 per property lost would be available to local authorities for this purpose.

Through the pathfinder programme, authorities will be able to test ideas and guidance on possible approaches to planning for and managing coastal change adaptation. Approaches could range from projects to help maintain beach access points damaged by coastal change; "buy and lease back" schemes to ease the transition where a property is at risk of being lost; and support for "roll-back" of caravan parks at risk.

These coastal change proposals are part of the Government's wider programme to support communities in adapting to flood and coastal erosion risk. It reflects the commitment, made in the Government's "Making Space for Water" strategy, to effective management of flood and erosion risk in a sustainable way which takes account of climate change. We will defend where it is sustainable and affordable to do so, but it will not be possible to protect every piece of coastline.

Where this is the case, communities will need to start preparing for and managing change. Significant progress has already been made with a programme of activities designed to support adaptation. These include the provision of better planning information through shoreline management plans and support for households to protect against flood risk through a £5 million grants scheme.

The consultation closes on 25 September 2009 and copies can be found via the DEFRA consultation website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/coastal-change/index.htm

### Agriculture and Fisheries Council

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** The Under-Secretary of State responsible for Natural and Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies), represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 25 May. Richard Lochhead and Michelle Gildernew also attended.

On fisheries there was an exchange of views on the Commission's Green Paper on reform of the common fisheries policy, focusing on the main issues of concern to each member state, rather than a structured discussion on specific questions. There was much recognition of the need for widespread reform, with no member state supporting the status quo overall, however there was no real consensus about the detail of reform.

Under any other fisheries business, the Commission updated the Ministers on their thinking on tackling the problem of discards. Though they expressed disappointed at the rate of progress so far, they were optimistic that some improvement could be made without having to wait for the common fisheries policy to be reformed.

On agriculture the presidency presented draft Council conclusions on the simplification of the CAP which all Ministers could support. Sweden, as upcoming presidency, confirmed its intention to come back to the issue of CAP simplification at Agriculture Council in November, with a view to ensuring progress is made on concrete simplification proposals. The Commission welcomed the Council conclusions and confirmed that their officials were already analysing the 39 specific simplification suggestions made in the list compiled at the previous Agriculture Council. The presidency confirmed that the conclusions had been adopted.

There were a number of further items under any other business. France, Germany and Austria called for a range of new measures to ease perceived dairy sector woes.

France introduced a paper on the economic situation of pigmeat producers, arguing that export refunds should be reactivated, particularly given the strength of the euro and due to a decline in pigmeat consumption in some member states as a result of Novel Flu.

Poland tabled a paper expressing concerns about an increasing disparity between producer and consumer prices, complaining that farmers/producers were not benefiting from the increased consumer prices owing to the putative anti-competitive behaviour of large retail outlets.

Finland introduced a paper on the killing of livestock by carnivores (such as wolves, bears etc) whose populations had increased as a result of protection afforded under the Habitats Directive. They requested amendments to state aid rules to permit payments from national funds to be made to farmers to compensate them for such losses to livestock.

The presidency confirmed that the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) meeting in New York had reached consensus on a final document that agreed on the urgent need to increase efforts on international food security and sustainable agricultural development. The Netherlands, who chaired the meeting in New York, gave an update urging colleagues to ensure that sustainable agriculture remained a feature of their preparations for the Copenhagen Climate Conference.

## HEALTH

### Cross-Border Health Services for Wales

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** The House of Commons Welsh Affairs Select Committee published its report "The Provision of Cross-Border Health Services for Wales" on 27 March 2009. We are today laying before Parliament the Command Paper (Cm 7647) setting out the Government's response to the Committee's report.

The Government have considered the Committee's report and welcome it as a helpful contribution to the debate about the provision of health services in England and Wales. The Command Paper sets out the Government's response to the report and discusses the commissioning and funding of services and arrangements to co-ordinate service provision.

The Government believe that the core principles of the national health service apply across the UK and an inevitable and healthy consequence of devolution has been some divergence in health policy between England and Wales. The Government agree with the Committee that the border between England and Wales does not represent a barrier to the provision of health care.

On 1 April 2009, a new protocol between the Department of Health and the Welsh Assembly Government for the commissioning of cross-border health services came into effect. The revised protocol, which has been placed in the Library, is in place for two years with annual negotiations required to agree funding.

## JUSTICE

### Probation Qualification Framework

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle):** Today, I have published a consultation document proposing new arrangements for the training and qualification of probation practitioners. The consultation period will run until 31 July 2009. Copies of the consultation document are available in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

The current arrangements for training probation officers is due to expire and the consultation will seek to gain the views of all those who have an interest in the work of probation practitioners, on proposed new arrangements.

The consultation document proposes that the minimum qualification for a probation officer remains at honours degree level. Approved prior learning gained in higher education could be accredited so that the qualification can be obtained during the first year of employment with a probation service. This maintains the current standard of qualification but allows probation areas more flexibility in workforce planning.

It is proposed to introduce a minimum qualification for probation service officers of an NVQ level 3 and also to introduce a foundation degree that would allow career progression to probation officer for existing staff.

Multiple entry routes on to the framework will enhance the opportunities for existing staff and give more flexibility for probation areas to maximise their workforce planning strategies. The proposed introduction date of April 2010 will ensure that there is no training gap and allows sufficient planning time for the implementation of the new arrangements.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 17 June 2009*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### UK Inward Investment

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas):** My noble Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Business, Lord Davies, has made the following statement with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

I am pleased to inform the House that in these difficult times for the global economy, the UK is maintaining its status as a world class business destination.

UK Trade and Investment has announced today, in its launch of the UK Inward Investment results 2008-09, that there were 1,744 direct investments in the UK by foreign owned companies between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, as reported by UK Trade and Investment and its partner agencies in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English Regional Development Agencies. This is an increase of 11 per cent. on the year before and confirms that international business has continued to select the UK as the preferred investment location in Europe, second only globally to the United States of America. Seventy eight thousand five hundred and forty new and safeguarded jobs have been delivered to the UK through this foreign direct investment.

At a time of global economic downturn, inward investment is a long term decision for any company seeking to grow internationally. In the current climate, more investors are seeking to locate in the UK than anywhere else in Europe, helping to underpin the long term economic prospects of the UK's business environment. The number of new projects has increased by 26 per cent. from 653 in 2007-08 to 827 in 2008-09 and there were 460 expansions by existing investors, up by 5 per cent. from 436 the previous year. In line with reduced global market liquidity, the number of acquisitions, joint ventures and mergers taking place is down 6 per cent. from 484 in 2007-08 to 457 in 2008-09.

Companies are seeking to invest internationally earlier in their lifecycles than at any time previously to fund their growth. The UK has positioned itself as a springboard for global growth for companies seeking to grow both in the UK and internationally from a UK base. UK Trade and Investment is the Government organisation leading support for such companies in the international business environment.

I am arranging for a copy of the UK Inward Investment report 2008-09 to be placed in the Library of the House.

### Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council

**The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden):** My noble Friend the Minister For Communications, Technology and Broadcasting (Lord Carter) has made the following statement.

Further to the written statement concerning the positions that HMG intended to take at the Telecommunications Council, held on 11 June 2009, I am pleased to be able to report back on the main conclusions and topics of discussion.

The Telecommunications Council took place on 11 June 2009 under the chair of the Czech presidency. Andy Lebrecht, the deputy permanent representative in Brussels, represented the United Kingdom. Much of the discussion was taken up by two main items, an informal (and off the agenda) discourse on the review of the EU regulatory framework from electronic communications networks and services and a formal round-table on European network and information security policy.

On the review, after an introduction by the presidency (in which they regretted they had been able to preside over a final agreement) Commissioner Reding suggested that while she understood the concerns of member states over the introduction of amendment 138 (the clause that would make any internet disconnection subject to judicial review) she was more worried about a delay in the adoption of the framework that would occur if the Council decided on a conciliation process. In response the vast majority of member states said that they could not accept the EP amendment; some noting that it potentially interfered with national competencies. The UK noted that the amendment was unacceptable both in legal and policy terms, noting how it could constrain future decisions of the Government. In terms of a future conciliation process the vast majority of member states (including the UK) indicated their wish to see discussion limited to amendment 138 with other (agreed) issues not being re-opened. Most member states were also happy to leave the question as to whether Council should reject the whole package or just the better regulation directive, which contains amendment 138, to the presidency.

The presidency concluded that while a majority of member states wanted the framework adopted quickly, there was a strong majority who rejected amendment 138 and so the next step would be conciliation.

On the formal discussion on European network and information security policy Commissioner Reding introduced the Commission's communication by noting that a breakdown in the critical telecoms infrastructure in the next five years was more likely now as a result of security flaws. She asked member states to take the threat seriously and to reflect on the role that the European network and information security agency (ENISA) may need to take. She noted the Commission intention to publish proposals concerning the reform of the ENISA mandate by April 2010.

Following this, during a wide-ranging exchange of views, the majority of member states endorsed the need for a pan EU (or even global) approach to information security and for enhanced co-operation between member states. All who spoke, with the exception of the UK and Hungary, also called for ENISA's term and remit to be automatically extended. The UK, while also welcoming the Commission's approach noted that a future role for ENISA should be discussed within the context of an overall policy discussion on information and security and critical infrastructure protection.

The Council then moved on to three items under Any Other Business, the first of which was on "Internet of Things—an action plan for Europe—Information from the Commission", where the Commission noted that it would shortly be issuing a communication on the matter; a report from the presidency on the ministerial conference entitled "Safer Internet for Children" (Prague, 20 April 2009) where the Commissioner thanked the presidency for an important conference and "Internet Governance: The next steps", where Commissioner Reding noted the imminent publication of a communication addressing, among other issues, the future of ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers).

## TREASURY

### The Scottish and Northern Ireland Banknotes Regulations

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher):** Today I am publishing a consultation document on secondary legislation made under part 6 of the Banking Act 2009, regarding arrangements underpinning the commercial issuance of Scottish and Northern Ireland banknotes. Copies of the document entitled, "The Banking Act 2009 (Scottish and Northern Ireland Banknotes)

Regulations 2009: a consultation" have been deposited in the Libraries of the House and the Vote Office and will be available on the HM Treasury website.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Coal and Carbon Capture Storage

**The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband):** I am today publishing a consultation on coal and carbon capture and storage entitled "A Framework for the Development of Clean Coal".

In April, the Budget announced financing for up to four CCS demonstration projects in the UK and, the following day, I outlined proposals for a new regulatory regime for new coal-fired power stations. Following the statutory strategic environmental assessment, this consultation document sets out the Government's proposals in more detail.

The aims of our proposals are to drive the decarbonisation of our energy supply, to safeguard our energy security and to get the best deal for consumers and businesses. The conditions on new coal proposed in this document are the most environmentally ambitious of any country in the world, requiring the demonstration of CCS on a substantial proportion of any new power station and the 100 per cent. retrofit of CCS when it is proven.

The document also sets out for consultation the process for funding and taking forward the demonstration projects that will enable us to maintain coal as part of our energy mix, supporting diversity and therefore security of supply.

By acting early, jobs will also be created as Britain develops the expertise in what could be a major new industry, with CCS projects offering the potential to form the hubs for clusters of low carbon industries.

By driving the development of CCS in this country, we are also, as a country, playing an essential role in tackling climate change. Coal is already widely used in developed and developing countries and its use is expected to grow further: 70 to 80 per cent. of the predicted growth in emissions in the coming decades will come from developing countries unless we find a route to low carbon growth

Copies of the consultation have been placed in the Library and it is available from: www.decc.gov.uk

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Animal Health and Veterinary Performance Targets

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** I have set Animal Health (AH) the following performance targets for 2009-10.

*Building Capability*

Demonstrate readiness for major outbreak of exotic disease.

Working with our policy customers and operational partners, design and deliver exotic animal disease exercises across Great Britain, testing response to cross-border incidents and planning for multiple outbreak centres. To be delivered in conjunction with operational partners.

Continue improvement of system and processes.

Design, build and roll out the TB work management module of the Business Reform Programme. This will give clear visibility of TB testing demand and activity, and support the delivery of different policy requirements in this key area.

*Quality of Service Delivery*

Enhanced engagement with end user customers.

Test the impact of changes to our service delivery model by engaging with specific customer groups. Focus on centralised delivery of services relating to International Trade, aim to achieve a customer satisfaction standard of 90 per cent.. We will establish focus groups for strategically important customer segments. Specifically in 2009-10 we will focus on:

The animal by product industry.

Cattle farmers.

We will consult with customer panels on improving customer service, policy development and provision of advice and guidance.

*Value for money*

Increasing efficiency

Achieve a further 3.5 per cent. (£4 million) efficiency saving by the end of the 2009-10 financial year, and identify options to enable a further 5 per cent. of savings to be made in the following financial year.

Charge end users fairly and efficiently

Working with policy customers, identify areas in which end user customers should be bearing more of the costs associated with regulation. Produce pricing proposals and develop a charging mechanism to support the introduction of an increased volume and scale of charges to support delivery of policy outcomes.

(i) I have set the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) the following performance targets for 2009-10.

*Quality of Service Delivery*

Deliver 90 per cent. contracted research milestones.

Deliver 85 per cent. of research final reports on time.

Deliver 85 per cent. of contracted surveillance deliverables to time.

Maintain appropriate third party quality accreditations.

Achieve a score of 85 per cent. on a three-year rolling average in the VLA customer satisfaction survey.

*Value for Public Money*

Achieve full cost recovery.

*Capacity and Capability*

Conduct one table top notifiable disease simulation exercise to test current laboratory response capability, identify gaps and implement action plan.

*Safety*

To improve the VLA's safety record using 2007-08 as a comparator.

I have set the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) the following performance targets for 2009-10.

*Quality of Service Delivery*

*Target 1*—To authorise veterinary medicines according to legislative requirements and published standards, and monitor reports of suspected adverse reactions to identify emerging trends and take proportionate action.

*Target 2*—To ensure that UK policy objectives are reflected in EC legislation and guidance and that UK legislation and guidance enables veterinary medicines to be used responsibly, effectively and safely.

*Target 3*—To ensure the regulatory system is effective and contributes to protecting public health by taking risk-based action on the findings from surveillance of residues in food-producing animals.

*Capacity and Capability and Value for money*

*Target 4*—To ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is in place to achieve targets 1, 2 and 3 and provides value for money and VMD achieves full cost recovery.

There are stringent performance indicators for each of these targets.

Further details are given in the respective "Agencies' Business Plans for 2009-10", copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Terrorism Act 2000 (Carlile Report)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson):** I am pleased to say that Lord Carlile of Berriew QC has completed his report on the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 and part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 in 2008, which will be laid before the House today.

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for his detailed report and have considered his recommendations fully. Following consultation within my Department and with other relevant Departments and agencies, I am also pleased to lay before the House today my response to Lord Carlile's recommendations.

Copies of both Lord Carlile's report and the response will be available in the Vote Office.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 18 June 2009*

## TREASURY

### ECOFIN

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Luxembourg on 9 June 2009. The following items were discussed:

*Economic and financial development*

a) Update on current situation

The Council took stock of the current economic and financial situation, based on an update from the Commission and the ECB. Ministers were also informed by the Commission of its intentions regarding budgetary surveillance procedures in the light of the latest fiscal notifications by the member states. The Government believe that continued communication between member states is key to ensuring a co-ordinated response to the crisis.

b) International accounting standards

The Council held an exchange of views with representatives from the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) regarding international standards used for the valuation of financial instruments. Ministers reiterated calls made at the informal ECOFIN in April for standard setters to work urgently to achieve clarity and consistency in the application of standards used for the valuation of assets in distressed and inactive markets. The Government welcome further actions announced by the IASB on 29 May, which demonstrate its commitment to respond to questions raised by the Commission and member states, and look forward to the EU advancing this work in the context of the G20 call to improve standards for valuation of financial instruments.

*Preparation of the June European Council 18-19 June 2009*

a) European supervisory framework

Ministers adopted Council conclusions on financial supervision and regulation to prepare the discussion at European Council. This follows the European Commission's response to the De Larosière report. The Government are content with the final conclusions, which reflect the concerns expressed by the UK. The conclusions incorporate strong safeguards at the Government's request, including the commitment that any new powers granted to existing or proposed bodies would not impinge in any way on member states' fiscal responsibilities.

Following the discussion at European Council, the Commission will present all necessary proposals by early autumn 2009 at the latest, with the aim of having the new European financial supervision system, comprising both macro-prudential and micro-prudential components, fully in place in the course of 2010.

b) Implementation of the European Economic Recovery Plan

The Council endorsed a report to the June European Council reviewing progress made on the European economic recovery plan (EERP). The UK is broadly content with the final document, which is a horizontal view of the structural and fiscal measures taken by member states following from the EERP.

c) Bank reform schemes

Following on from an interim oral report given to Ministers at the informal ECOFIN in April, Ministers agreed a report on the effectiveness of support schemes undertaken to ensure financial stability, including reporting of the UK's own asset protection scheme and other measures. The Government believe the report provides a useful insight into the actions taken by member states to support the financial sector. The Council has asked the Economic and Financial Committee to further examine requirements for bank restructuring in return for state support and the pricing of state guarantees, and to report back to the Council in July.

d) International financing of climate change

ECOFIN adopted Council conclusions to inform discussions by heads in June, in preparation of the December Copenhagen conference on climate change. The UK supports the Council conclusions, which demonstrate the EU's commitment to tackling this issue ahead of the finalisation of the EU negotiation regarding finance mechanisms, which is expected in October.

*Taxation*

a) Good governance in tax

Based on the Commission's 28 April communication, ECOFIN adopted Council conclusions on further work relating to good governance in taxation. The conclusions encourage further work in relation to legislative proposals on the savings taxation directive, the administrative co-operation directive and the recovery directive, and urge the Commission to swiftly present the results of negotiations on an anti-fraud agreement with Liechtenstein. The UK is content with the conclusions, which represent a positive step forward on the three individual directives and on the wider good governance agenda, with its close links to the G20. The incoming Swedish presidency will report to the Council in the autumn on progress made.

### Iranian Frozen Assets

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson):** The Foreign Secretary has previously provided figures for the total frozen assets in the UK under the sanctions against Burma and Zimbabwe. An aggregate figure for frozen assets is given in relation to a sanctions regime in order to ensure that principles of data protection and confidentiality are observed and the amount relating to any one individual or entity is not identifiable.

*Total assets frozen in the UK under the sanctions against Iran*

The total assets frozen in the UK under the EU and UN sanctions against Iran are approximately £976,110,000. This figure is the total reported frozen assets at the time sanctions were imposed and has been converted to sterling from the currencies in which it was reported using the appropriate exchange rate for the day on which it was reported.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Planning

**The Minister for Housing (John Healey):** I am today publishing a consultation document entitled "Greater Flexibility for Planning Permissions", which sets out proposals to provide greater flexibility for local authorities, to give developers more support and scope to keep investment and activity ongoing during the economic downturn. This paper outlines a number of measures which do not require primary legislation. I intend to implement them rapidly, mainly in the autumn.

The consultation paper has three elements:

*Extension of the time limits for implementation of existing planning permissions*—We propose to give local authorities the discretion to extend the time limits for commencement of major developments. This will allow extension of the typical three-year time limit for a further period, which in most cases would be another three years. We intend this as a temporary measure, which will apply to all permissions for major developments which are extant at the time it comes into force. The measure will therefore be in operation for approximately three years, depending on the length of time which each individual permission has left to run.

*Minor material amendments to planning permissions*—At present, when a developer wants to make a small, but material, change to a scheme that already has planning permission, it is often necessary to submit a further full planning application, which leads to considerable delay, cost and uncertainty for the applicant and additional work for the local planning authority. The consultation document seeks views on varying conditions to make the process more streamlined and also seeks initial views on more substantive changes which would require primary legislation. This element of the consultation document responds to a recommendation in the Killian Pretty review of planning applications.

*Non-material amendments to planning permissions*—The final part of the consultation document proposes changes to secondary legislation necessary to bring into effect a measure in the Planning Act 2008 which provides a simple and quick mechanism for making non-material amendments to planning permissions. Developers will not need to make a full planning application, but can instead apply simply to change one particular aspect of the permission.

We also want to encourage the use of Local Development Orders. I can confirm that next week we will commence a provision from the Planning Act 2008 that will allow an LDO to be set up independent of the local development plan, and I am also removing the requirement for local authorities to obtain approval of an LDO from the Secretary of State.

I am also announcing today the availability of small-scale start-up funding for a first wave of at least 12 LDOs. The Planning Advisory Service is working with the Department considering applications, and I can report that we have now offered support to the first two LDO schemes.

*Amendments to the Building Regulations*

I am today also publishing a consultation on changes to Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Power) and Part F (Ventilation) to deliver the next step towards zero carbon buildings—a 25 per cent. improvement on current standards for homes and other buildings from October 2010.

The proposals in the consultation could deliver savings of 3.3 million tonnes of carbon per year in 2020.

The proposed changes mean that homes would have to be built with a suitable combination of better insulation and draught-proofing, better low-energy lighting and more efficient boilers. By requiring higher levels of energy efficiency in new homes residents will benefit from lower fuel bills—up to £100 lower per year than for homes built to the current standard.

In the consultation, we are also seeking views on whether we should require energy efficiency standards for conservatories. We know that conservatories are a relatively cost-effective way of increasing the living space of a home. However, they can significantly increase carbon emissions—a 20m$^2$ conservatory with poor energy efficiency standards added to a house built since 2002 and heated to the same temperature as that house would approximately double its carbon emissions. So we are asking whether we should expect people to spend an estimated additional £400 on a £10,000 new conservatory to improve its energy efficiency.

Later, we will be consulting more fully on how to take forward the ambition from the March 2008 Budget that all new non-domestic buildings should be zero carbon from 2019. In the meantime, as we said in the zero carbon consultation in December 2008, it is important to take early steps to start to further improve the energy performance of non-domestic buildings. So, today's Part L consultation also sets outs proposals for a 25 per cent. improvement on current standards for new non-domestic buildings from October 2010.

Finally, the consultation sets out proposals to tighten the standards for some standard building systems and components, like boilers and windows, which make a significant difference to carbon emissions from new buildings and when these items are replaced in existing homes.

The consultation will close on 17 September 2009 and any changes to the regulations are due to be made by March 2010 to come into effect from October 2010.

Copies of the consultation documents will be placed in the Library of the House.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces Recruits and Trainees

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell):** Today I welcome publication of the first report by Ofsted on the quality of welfare and duty of care for recruits and trainees in the armed forces. Following up on the work previously undertaken by the Adult Learning Inspectorate, Ofsted has been engaged in inspecting the recruit journey from armed forces recruitment and careers offices through the selection process and into training.

Having implemented a number of policy and process changes designed to improve the training environment and the support provided to individuals and to reduce the risk to recruits and trainees, the armed forces are committed to a programme of continuous improvement which is supported by external inspection. This report, the first by Ofsted, draws on the evidence gathered by

inspectors over a 15-month period of visits. It includes judgements on the provision of welfare and duty of care; on the capacity to improve; and on how well the armed forces are undertaking self-assessment activity. Self-assessment is a relatively new concept for much of the armed forces and, while the majority of units visited are progressing well, there remains more work to be done.

I am pleased that Ofsted concludes the overall effectiveness of the welfare and duty of care provision for recruits and trainees is 'Satisfactory'. The report is largely positive and shows progress on a wide range of issues. Nevertheless, it is clear that there is further room for development in a number of areas in terms of the pace of improvement and the application of consistent practice. We should not be surprised that the pressures of conducting challenging and sustained operations at a level of intensity and commitment we have not experienced for some time are manifest in some of our training establishments. We are not complacent, however, and remain committed to continuing to improve the way in which our recruits are trained.

The initial training environment is dynamic and we must be sure that the impact of change is fully understood, which is why we will continue to place emphasis on self-assessment. Ofsted make a number of recommendations which, together with the findings from internal audit work, will feed into the overall continuous improvement programme.

I have today placed copies of the report: "The quality of welfare and duty of care for recruits and trainees in the Armed Forces", in the Library of the House.

External inspection provides the armed forces with the opportunity to consider good practice from outside of the Ministry of Defence and I am grateful to the Chief Inspector Ofsted for this report and the contribution it makes to ensure that the care and welfare of recruits and trainees in the armed forces continues to improve.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Diplomatic Missions

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** The majority of diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom pay the national non-domestic rates requested from them. They are obliged to pay only 6 per cent. of the total national non-domestic rates value which represents payment for specific services such as street cleaning, lighting, maintenance and fire services. The total amount outstanding from all diplomatic missions is approximately £634,205. As at 6 May 2009, missions listed below owed over £10,000 in respect of NNDR.

Since a letter about outstanding NNDR bills was sent to missions on 25 March, £154,402 has been repaid. Many missions have cleared their bills and some others have entered into arrangements to pay by instalments.

| *Country* | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| Zimbabwe | £79,883.28 |
| Bangladesh | £77,127.64 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | £72,095.74 |
| Cameroon | £55,200.38 |
| Tunisia | £22,648.39 |
| Ukraine | £22,178.20 |
| Equatorial Guinea | £12,290.37 |
| Iraq | £12,537.13 |
| *Total* | £353,961.13 |

### Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations (Congestion Charge and Fines)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** The number of outstanding fines incurred by the diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom for non-payment of the London congestion charge since its introduction in February 2003 until 18 February 2009 was £26,721,464. The table below shows the 53 diplomatic missions with outstanding fines totalling £100,000 or more.

| *Country* | *Number of Fines* | *Total Outstanding (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| USA | 27,368 | 2,960,760 |
| Russia | 20,327 | 2,269,440 |
| Japan | 19,007 | 2,090,880 |
| Germany | 17,370 | 1,929,490 |
| Nigeria | 14,270 | 1,520,170 |
| Sudan | 9,750 | 1,016,920 |
| India | 7,061 | 801,940 |
| Poland | 6,222 | 699,000 |
| Kenya | 6,429 | 673,990 |
| Ghana | 5,664 | 631,040 |
| Tanzania | 5,764 | 602,320 |
| France | 5,397 | 593,620 |
| Spain | 5,098 | 578,360 |
| Greece | 4,931 | 556,260 |
| Ukraine | 4,904 | 549,840 |
| South Africa | 5,053 | 527,800 |
| Romania | 4,659 | 520,960 |
| Algeria | 4,393 | 466,760 |
| Sierra Leone | 4,295 | 444,380 |
| Bulgaria | 3,002 | 327,940 |
| Kazakhstan | 2,710 | 307,040 |
| Korea | 2,611 | 303,000 |
| Hungary | 2,666 | 297,190 |
| Slovakia | 2,556 | 286,140 |
| Yemen | 2,515 | 279,000 |
| Belarus | 2,454 | 273,720 |
| Zambia | 2,526 | 272,660 |
| Zimbabwe | 2,534 | 259,400 |
| Cameroon | 2,348 | 252,140 |
| Cyprus | 2,110 | 238,780 |
| Ethiopia | 2,217 | 235,320 |
| Namibia | 1,944 | 202,680 |
| Swaziland | 1,947 | 201,860 |
| Mauritius | 1,838 | 200,760 |
| Czech Republic | 1,700 | 187,580 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 1,731 | 186,720 |
| Pakistan | 1,490 | 175,250 |
| Mozambique | 1,610 | 171,180 |
| Lesotho | 1,545 | 163,280 |
| Austria | 1,338 | 151,160 |
| Belgium | 1,268 | 143,360 |
| Egypt | 1,442 | 137,400 |

| *Country* | *Number of Fines* | *Total Outstanding (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Cote d'Ivoire | 1,309 | 134,680 |
| Malawi | 1,237 | 128,780 |
| Vietnam | 1,161 | 125,780 |
| Malta | 1,103 | 122,580 |
| Guinea | 1,186 | 121,180 |
| Botswana | 1,076 | 118,380 |
| Denmark | 1,002 | 115,220 |
| Jamaica | 1,017 | 111,620 |
| Uganda | 1,023 | 110,780 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1,029 | 103,430 |
| DPR Korea | 981 | 101,700 |

## Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations (Unpaid Parking and Traffic Violations)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** In 2008, there were 4,257 recorded outstanding parking and other minor traffic violation fines incurred by diplomatic missions and international organisations in the United Kingdom. These totalled £448,580. In March this year, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office wrote to all diplomatic missions and international organisations concerned, giving them the opportunity to either pay their outstanding fines or appeal against them if they considered that the fines had been issued incorrectly. As a result of subsequent payments totalling £18,620 and formal appeals lodged, there remains a total of 4,021 (£429,960) unpaid fines for 2008. The table below details those diplomatic missions and international organisations that have outstanding fines totalling £1,000 or more.

| *Diplomatic Mission/International Organisation* | *Number of Outstanding Fines (excluding congestion charge)* | *Amount in £* |
|---|---|---|
| Kazakhstan | 528 | £58,400 |
| Sudan | 280 | £29,680 |
| Afghanistan | 253 | £27,460 |
| Saudi Arabia | 288 | £26,960 |
| United Arab Emirates | 213 | £22,440 |
| China | 164 | £18,300 |
| Cyprus | 163 | £17,860 |
| France | 154 | £16,520 |
| Turkey | 125 | £13,560 |
| Nigeria | 102 | £12,880 |
| Pakistan | 110 | £12,000 |
| Romania | 108 | £11,290 |
| Russia | 85 | £8,825 |
| Egypt | 75 | £8,020 |
| Guinea | 66 | £6,700 |
| Ukraine | 56 | £6,260 |
| North Korea | 78 | £6,080 |
| Albania | 55 | £5,560 |
| Jordan | 53 | £5,240 |
| Uzbekistan | 49 | £4,900 |
| Georgia | 47 | £4,780 |
| Mozambique | 45 | £4,500 |
| Malaysia | 40 | £4,440 |
| Greece | 39 | £4,360 |
| Iran | 35 | £3,700 |
| Tunisia | 34 | £3,500 |
| Zambia | 46 | £3,380 |
| Bulgaria | 26 | £2,840 |
| Libya | 43 | £2,760 |
| DR Congo | 35 | £2,640 |
| Iraq | 24 | £2,460 |
| Benin | 27 | £2,460 |
| Algeria | 19 | £2,100 |
| Côte d' Ivoire | 21 | £2,300 |
| Kuwait | 19 | £2,160 |
| Mauritius | 18 | £2,020 |
| Ghana | 18 | £1,980 |
| Germany | 18 | £1,940 |
| Bangladesh | 16 | £1,920 |
| Kenya | 16 | £1,760 |
| Liberia | 16 | £1,620 |
| Lithuania | 15 | £1,640 |
| Botswana | 14 | £1,520 |
| Bahrain | 14 | £1,520 |
| Hungary | 14 | £1,480 |
| Angola | 14 | £1,620 |
| Thailand | 13 | £1,480 |
| Azerbaijan | 13 | £1,420 |
| Mongolia | 13 | £1,460 |
| Luxembourg | 14 | £1,420 |
| Vietnam | 13 | £1,320 |
| Italy | 17 | £1,380 |
| Morocco | 13 | £1,380 |
| Syria | 12 | £1,280 |
| Mexico | 11 | £1,220 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 7 | £1,105 |
| Ethiopia | 11 | £1,080 |
| Jamaica | 10 | £1,080 |
| Swaziland | 9 | £1,000 |
| Spain | 8 | £1,000 |
| *TOTAL* | 3,842 | £404,240 |

## Diplomatic Immunity (Alleged Serious Offences)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** In 2008, ten serious offences allegedly committed by people entitled to diplomatic immunity were drawn to the attention of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. "Serious Offences" are defined as offences that would, in certain circumstances, carry a penalty of 12 months or more imprisonment. Some 25,000 people are entitled to diplomatic immunity in the United Kingdom.

The table below lists those foreign missions whose diplomats allegedly committed serious offences and the type of offence from 2004-2008.

| *2004* | |
|---|---|
| *Arranging Sham Marriages* | |
| Nigeria | 1 |
| *Driving under the Influence of Alcohol* | |
| Angola | 1 |
| Austria | 1 |
| Luxembourg | 1 |
| Mozambique | 1 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 1 |
| Spain | 1 |

| *2004* | |
|---|---|
| ***Indecent Assault*** | |
| Congo | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| ***Indecent Assault on Child*** | |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| ***Robbery and Assault*** | |
| Angola | 1 |

| *2005* | |
|---|---|
| ***Actual Bodily Harm*** | |
| Jordan | 1 |
| ***Assault (Domestic Violence)*** | |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| ***Dangerous Driving*** | |
| Turkey | 1 |
| ***Driving under the Influence of Alcohol*** | |
| Angola | 1 |
| Egypt | 1 |
| Ghana | 1 |
| Lebanon | 1 |
| Peru | 1 |
| Russia | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| ***Harassment*** | |
| Turkey | 1 |
| ***Theft (Shoplifting)*** | |
| Egypt | 1 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 1 |
| Zambia | 1 |
| ***Theft and Robbery (of Motor Vehicle, Driving without Insurance)*** | |
| South Africa | 1 |

| *2006* | |
|---|---|
| ***Attempted Robbery*** | |
| South Africa | 1 |
| ***Deception (Going Equipped to Commit)*** | |
| Nigeria | 1 |
| ***Driving under the Influence of Alcohol*** | |
| Kazakhstan | 2 |
| Belarus | 1 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 1 |
| Kuwait | 1 |
| Malawi | 1 |
| Oman | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| South Africa | 1 |
| ***Driving without Insurance*** | |
| Pakistan | 1 |
| ***Failure to Stop for Police/Driving without Insurance and License*** | |
| Kazakhstan | 1 |
| ***Robbery*** | |
| South Africa | 1 |
| ***Theft (Obtaining Property by Deception)*** | |
| Ghana | 1 |

| *2007* | |
|---|---|
| ***Dangerous Driving*** | |
| Russia | 1 |
| ***Domestic Assault/Actual Bodily Harm*** | |
| South Africa | 1 |
| ***Driving without Insurance*** | |
| Ghana | 1 |
| ***Driving without insurance and driving under the influence of alcohol*** | |
| Malawi | 2 |
| ***Driving under the influence of alcohol*** | |
| Belarus | 1 |
| Georgia | 1 |
| Hungary | 1 |
| Israel | 1 |
| Italy | 1 |
| Other* | 1 |
| Kazakhstan | 1 |
| Kuwait | 1 |
| Moldova | 1 |
| Nigeria | 1 |
| Peru | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| Turkmenistan | 1 |
| ***Misrepresentation (obtaining insurance by deception)*** | |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 1 |
| ***Robbery and Actual Bodily Harm*** | |
| Guyana | 1 |

| *2008* | |
|---|---|
| ***Driving under the influence of alcohol*** | |
| Cameroon | 1 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 1 |
| Morocco | 1 |
| Mozambique | 1 |
| Other* | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| Thailand | 1 |
| Uganda | 1 |

| *2008* | |
|---|---|
| Vietnam | 1 |

*Theft (Shoplifting)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Cameroon | 1 |

*Details have been withheld because the number of diplomatic personnel in the mission(s) concerned is so small that disclosure would lead to the identification of the individual concerned. This would breach the data protection rights of that individual—in particular, the first data protection principle, namely, that personal data should be processed fairly. This is because the offences are only alleged to have been committed and have not been proven in a court of law. In these circumstances, section 40 (2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act confer an absolute exemption on disclosure of this information.

## HEALTH

### Pharmacy in England

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** Chapter 5 of our pharmacy White Paper, "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future" addressed the need to raise awareness of the many and varied services and benefits offered by pharmacies and pharmacists.

In the light of further public research, we have prepared a communications programme to support the delivery of key messages to patients, public, the NHS and other stakeholders. Summary copies of the research have today been placed in the Library of the House, are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083815

This programme represents the first step in improving awareness and understanding of the roles of pharmacy in providing services. This is an important but necessary prelude to expanding the range of clinical services we want to see available as outlined in the White Paper.

We have identified key target audiences for this programme with a particular focus on people with long-term conditions and those affected by health inequalities. The next phase will turn this information into a campaign plan. We will work with key pharmacy stakeholders to develop this campaign plan. It will be supported by further research this summer among the pharmacist profession to identify their preparedness and ability to deliver the range and quality of services that patients and public should expect in future.

We consulted on a number of structural and legislative changes affecting community pharmacy last autumn. Our proposals for reforming the current primary legislation are contained in the Health Bill published in January and now before the Commons.

As part of this work, I am today announcing the formation of a regulatory advisory group to help implement these changes, subject to parliamentary approval of our provisions in the Bill.

I have asked Mr Paul Burns to lead and chair this group. Mr Burns is leaving his current post of Chief Officer of the NHS Litigation Authority Appeal Unit at the end of this month. He has an unrivalled wealth of experience of NHS pharmacy legislation. He will be inviting key organisations and stakeholders to join him in formulating the detailed regulations needed to bring our reform proposals to reality.

The terms of reference for this important work are:

"Subject to parliamentary approval of proposals in the Health Bill 2009, to consider and advise on, and to help the Department devise, regulations to implement a duty on NHS primary care trusts to develop and to publish pharmaceutical needs assessments and on subsequent regulations required to use such assessments as the basis for determining the provision of NHS pharmaceutical services".

We expect the group to complete its programme by spring 2011.

Pending this longer-term reform, I have considered whether or not further changes are needed to the current arrangements for pharmacies prepared to provide NHS services for at least 100 hours per week. We also consulted on this last autumn. I fully recognise the strength of feeling this issue has generated. While reforms now may have potential benefits, I am not persuaded, after full consideration, that there should be further changes to the current arrangements for what will be a relatively short interim period before new permanent arrangements are in place.

In the absence of firm evidence that such pharmacies have had serious adverse impacts on the provision of NHS services locally, and that some of the earlier problems reported to us are settling down, I have concluded that these current arrangements should continue pending our longer-term strategic vision for NHS services to be commissioned against local needs. I consider this is the right path to follow.

Once the new arrangements are in place, applications, including those offering extended hours, will be determined against those assessments. Existing pharmacies currently opening at least 100 hours per week who want to reduce their hours will in due course be able to apply to the PCT for determinations based against those assessments. Otherwise, they will have to maintain their commitment to open for at least 100 hours per week.

This Government remain determined to transform the delivery of pharmaceutical services. By developing community pharmacists' clinical role and expanding the range of services they offer, we want to ensure that people have a wider choice of, and greater access to modern, effective, frontline health care. I believe we are on course to achieve that.

## JUSTICE

### Civil Court Fees

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** I am today announcing the outcome of the recent consultation on Civil Court Fees.

The consultation paper published on 10 December 2008 proposed a package of fee increases designed to raise an additional £38 million a year in fee income. The consultation closed on 4 March 2009. Fifty-two responses were received from law professionals, local authorities, the judiciary, individuals and other stakeholder bodies.

After careful consideration of these, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor has decided to proceed with the increases, subject to a number of adjustments to reflect particular points raised by respondents.

These changes to the charging regime in the civil courts are to be introduced in order to target taxpayers' money more effectively while continuing to help those in financial difficulty.

They are being introduced so that fees reflect the true cost of the work done by the courts—currently subsidised by the taxpayer and fee-payers in other types of cases.

This is in the best interests of people on low incomes and of taxpayers. Those who cannot afford to pay a court fee deserve the taxpayer's help. But court fees need to reflect the true cost of court proceedings. Together with a system that waives or reduces fees for those who cannot afford them, that is the right balance to ensure fair access to justice, fairness to the taxpayer and proper funding of courts' running costs now and in the future.

There are changes to 30 types of civil court fee, out of the 200-plus fees in operation. Most of the changes relate to applications to enforce judgments that have already been made in debt claims between private parties, and which are recoverable from defaulters who can but will not pay their debts.

For example, the fee for sending a bailiff to collect a debt or seize the debtor's goods to pay it rises to £100 (currently there are two fees of £35 and £55). The creditor pays the fee but it is then automatically added to the debt.

Fees are waived automatically for people on means-tested benefits, such as income support or on low incomes, for example; £13,000 for a single person with no children and £29,720 for a couple with four children.

People who do not meet either of those criteria can still apply to the court for a full or partial fee waiver based on an assessment of their disposable income, that is, taking account of rent and other key household expenditure.

The scheme granted £23 million in full or part waivers in over 160,000 civil or family court cases in the year to October 2008 alone.

The civil and family courts are principally concerned with resolving private disputes between individuals or companies. These are not criminal cases. The Government do not believe that it is right for the taxpayer at large to continue to provide a general untargeted subsidy for resolution of these disputes in courts.

However, there currently remains a large general subsidy from the taxpayer in some areas of court business, from which all court users in those areas benefit regardless of their ability to pay. For example, magistrates court civil fees currently cover only 55 per cent. of the cost of doing the work. The changes made will mean that fees in this area of business will in future reflect the full cost.

At the moment, fees for enforcement processes do not reflect the full cost of those processes. This means that they are effectively subsidised by the fees paid in cases where enforcement is not required. This is unfair on the creditors and debtors in those cases. It is therefore right, particularly in the current economic climate, that enforcement fees should be set to reflect the true cost.

While we are keen to ensure that those who can but will not pay are pursued effectively through the courts, we are keen to help people with debt problems to avoid court in the first place, especially in the current economic climate.

The legal process provides ample opportunity, both before and during court proceedings, for debtors to come to payment agreements with those to whom they owe money. The Government have introduced a number of initiatives to encourage and facilitate this, and in particular to ensure that debtors receive timely information about the availability of free debt and legal advice. These include:

a new requirement, introduced this April, that any business wanting to take an individual debtor to court must first write to them, including details about how to find free debt advice;

all county courts now display posters giving details of free advice providers;

an advice desk in each of the 154 courts that account for the majority of possession claims;

HM Courts Service's online possession claim system now includes details for all defendants on where they can find local financial advice;

a Housing Arrears Pre-Action Scheme, currently at pilot stage, involves courts inviting tenants with rent arrears to meet with local advice providers at the court before a claim is issued;

the judiciary issued guidance in November 2008 on ensuring that lenders demonstrate they have taken all the steps expected to resolve mortgage arrears before they take the matter to court.

If taken to court, defendants can complete an admission form and make a proposal for payment; if the claimant refuses to accept the proposal, the court will then step in and make an assessment for repayment based on the debtor's income and expenditure. If ultimately enforcement action is required, it is right that debtors who can, but will not, pay face the full cost of their decision to let things get that far.

Equally, creditors should be discouraged from taking enforcement measures against vulnerable debtors who genuinely cannot afford to pay. Charging the true full cost for enforcement processes—for example, warrants or charging orders—will encourage creditors to consider more carefully whether they are throwing good money after bad. These fee changes are therefore a further measure to help those in financial difficulties by discouraging inappropriate or premature enforcement process against them.

In the light of the responses to consultation, my right hon. Friend has decided to make a number of changes to the proposals on which we consulted. The details of all these are set out in the two explanatory memoranda accompanying the statutory instruments. There are two main changes:

First, the Lord Chancellor has decided not to align the fee payable for a detailed assessment of costs in a legally aided case with the banded fees payable in private cases. Respondents argued that this was inappropriate because legal aid assessments were simpler and significantly less time-consuming for the courts than other assessments.

Secondly, we have listened to concerns expressed about the proposal to replace the three existing fees payable in general civil proceedings in magistrates courts by a single up-front fee. Responses suggested that a significant proportion of these cases never required a contested hearing, and should not have to pay a fee that

reflected the costs incurred by those that did. We are therefore introducing a two-stage structure, with a single application fee equal to the existing three fees, and a second fee payable only once there is a contested hearing.

Three statutory instruments containing the new civil, family and magistrates court fees were laid before Parliament today and will come into effect on 13 July 2009. A report summarising the responses to the consultation paper in more detail is also being published today.

## TRANSPORT

### Transport Council

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** I attended the second Transport Council of the Czech presidency, in Luxembourg on 11 June.

The Council adopted a decision, which the UK supported, authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Georgia on a comprehensive air transport agreement.

Under AOB, the Commission presented its recent proposal for a directive on aviation security charges, which aims to ensure transparency, non-discrimination and consultation of airlines when fixing the level of security charges and to ensure that charges are cost-related. I called for the directive to match the airport charges directive as closely as possible. I also emphasised that there should be no restriction on member states' ability to impose more stringent measures swiftly when the situation demands it, and that the proposal should take into account the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

The Council reached a political agreement on a proposal for a regulation concerning a European rail network for competitive freight. This draft regulation seeks to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of international rail freight in Europe. I joined several other Ministers in expressing the view that the text put to the Council struck the right balance in terms of passenger transport and the designation of rail corridors. Some minor changes were made to address remaining concerns of some member states and the political agreement was reached.

Under AOB, the Commission reported on the current position regarding liberalisation of rail transport in the EU. The UK supported the Commission in its call for all member states to ensure that the provisions on liberalisation set out in the first railway package are properly and comprehensively transposed.

There was a progress report and policy debate on a proposal for a regulation on the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport. The proposal aims to make bus and coach travel more attractive and accessible to all passengers, including disabled people and people with reduced mobility, and to create a level playing field across Europe, both between operators and different modes of transport. In the debate, Ministers were invited to comment on options for the scope of the draft regulation. I stressed that the proposed exemption for urban, suburban and regional transport operated under public service contracts that provide a comparable level of passenger rights was discriminatory in respect of those member states, such as the UK, whose markets have moved to open competition beyond public service contracts, and that such a condition should not be attached to the exemption. On that basis I joined a large number of Ministers in calling for its scope to be limited to long-distance and international journeys.

There was a progress report on a proposed amendment to Regulation (EC) 1321/2004 on the establishment of structures for the management of the European satellite radio-navigation programmes. The amendment, which the UK supports, will bring the regulation into line with recent changes to the finance, governance and procurement procedures for Galileo. Work on it will continue under the Swedish presidency.

There was also a progress report on the proposal for a directive laying down the framework for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems in the EU. The Swedish presidency will now take forward negotiations in the working group.

The Council adopted conclusions, which the UK supported, on transport trans-European networks (TEN-T). The conclusions follow a Commission Green Paper, which took stock of TEN-T policy in the light of recent EU enlargement and the need to address the challenges posed by climate change.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Friday 19 June 2009*

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Partnerships for Schools

**The Minister of State, Department for Children, Schools and Families (Mr. Vernon Coaker):** Building Schools for the Future is helping transform secondary school infrastructure in England, providing world-class teaching and learning environments for pupils, teachers and communities. Since the programme was established, more than £3 billion of funding has been committed to rebuilding and renewing the estate, with over 75 schools now benefiting from this investment. Around a third of all secondary schools are now involved in the programme.

In 2004, the Department created Partnerships for Schools to manage the programme centrally and support local authorities in local implementation. The funding and management of Partnerships for Schools has been carried out under a joint venture between the Department and Partnerships UK. Partnerships UK was set up to help the Government deliver improvements in public services particularly where major infrastructure renewal programmes are involved.

Through the joint venture, Partnerships UK has made a significant contribution to the successful delivery of Building Schools for the Future by providing strategic, commercial, programme and project management expertise, and in the early years secondment of key staff. Since 2006 Partnerships UK has also been supporting Partnerships for Schools in the construction of new academies. As the National Audit Office pointed out in its recent report on "Building Schools for the Future" (published on 12 February 2009), "the effect [of the joint venture arrangement] has been to engender top level attention to BSF in PUK, and greater in-depth support and commitment", and this has been crucial in establishing the programme.

Following the success in setting up these programmes, and recognising Partnerships for Schools' increasing maturity as an organisation and the plans to enlarge their remit later this year, the Department and Partnerships UK have reviewed the governance arrangements for Partnerships for Schools and have agreed that it is no longer necessary for Partnerships UK to engage as intensively as through the joint venture, which was focused on Building Schools for the Future. It has therefore been agreed to bring the joint venture to an end.

Going forward, Partnerships UK will maintain an active involvement in the delivery of Building Schools for the Future and other capital programmes by continuing to provide support through an existing alternative contractual basis rather than through the joint venture. As part of the new arrangements, the chief executive of Partnerships UK will be an ex officio board member and director of Partnerships for Schools, and the finance director of Partnerships UK an ex officio observer to the board.

As a result of the termination of the joint venture the Department is paying Partnerships UK an amount of £22.4 million. This sum repays Partnerships UK for its share of the funding of the joint venture plus a return on that investment. The return remunerates Partnerships UK for interest on its investment, the risks associated, and the support and commitment to the programmes provided to date.

## HEALTH

### Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron):** The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 8 and 9 June in Luxembourg. The Health and Consumer Affairs part of the Council was taken on 9 June. Andy Lebrecht, Deputy Permanent Representative at UKRep represented the UK.

At the meeting, the Council adopted recommendations on the Czech presidency theme of patient safety, including the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections and on action in the field of rare diseases. The United Kingdom supported the adoption of these conclusions.

The presidency provided a progress report on the proposal for a directive on cross-border healthcare, which was followed by a debate between member states where it was clear that there remain concerns among member states on treatments to be included under the directive. The UK intervened to thank the Czech presidency for their work taking this dossier forward, and welcomed the Council's firm support for certain fundamental principles—in particular that of ensuring that member states retain the ability to determine healthcare entitlements. The UK noted that there remained some technical issues to be resolved in chapters 1 to 3, and that we still had serious concerns about the extent and appropriateness of some provisions of chapter four (on co-operation between healthcare systems).

Over lunch, there was a discussion from the Commission on H1N1(A) influenza, following a paper the Commission had provided to member states in advance.

The afternoon discussion focused on the "pharmaceutical package". The majority of member states who intervened welcomed the proposals on counterfeit medicines and pharmacovigilance, as did the UK. Most of member states, however, were not supportive of the third element of the package: the proposals on "information to patients". The UK noted that the divergent views across Europe meant that discussion of a harmonised legal framework was difficult. However, the UK encouraged member states to find a way to keep the issues under discussion. Under any other business, the presidency and Commission provided information on a range of issues including a summary of the lunchtime discussion on swine flu, a directive on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation, the outcome of a Council working party on public health at senior level and information on ingredients in tobacco products. The incoming Swedish presidency provided information on their priorities for health, which they intend to take forward under their presidency.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Western European Union (UK Delegation)

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown):** The Earl of Dundee DL has been appointed as a substitute member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of Western European Union in place of Baroness O'Cathain OBE.

### Security and Intelligence Services

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown):** I have recently appointed Desmond Bowen CMG as Staff Counsellor for the security and intelligence services, with effect from 6 April 2009. He was a civil servant from 1973 until he retired, as Policy Director at the Ministry of Defence, in October 2008.

John Warne CB has served as Staff Counsellor since February 2004. His appointment was due to end in February 2009, although he kindly agreed to extend his term to 5 April. I would like to thank him for his work during his time in office and in particular for the valuable support he has provided to staff working in the security and intelligence services.

## TRANSPORT

### Rail Accidents (Grayrigg and Potters Bar)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole):** My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

Further to the written statements by the then Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 19WS and 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, I would like to inform the House that following careful consideration, including those representations made by affected parties, I have decided that the public interest is best served by the continuation of the two inquests that have begun into the deaths resulting from the rail accidents at Potters Bar and at Grayrigg. I have therefore decided not to convene a public inquiry into the accidents, either individually or jointly.

I regret the length of time taken to reach this point, and the anxiety that this may have caused to those who have lost loved ones. However, the chronology of events and the issues are complex and I considered it important to ensure that my decision regarding the next steps is the right one.

Having considered the material before me, I am satisfied that separate inquests will allow for appropriate further independent investigations of the accidents, with the bereaved and injured able to participate and express their views and concerns in a transparent forum open to public scrutiny. Although the conduct of the inquests is a matter for the coroners, the inquests will be capable of examining the relevant issues raised by the accidents, including those that are common to both.

Safety on the rail network is a paramount consideration. In relation to the Grayrigg accident, I am satisfied that the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) has carried out a thorough investigation into the accident as part of the new rail safety and accident investigation regime, which included consideration of relevant issues arising from earlier accidents including Potters Bar. In particular, I note that the RAIB consulted with key stakeholders, including the bereaved, prior to the publication of its final report, during which process no further lines of work or testing by RAIB were identified. There will be a further independent examination of the accident during an inquest, which I am satisfied is capable of addressing any relevant questions that remain unanswered. I shall make funds available to the Coroner for South and East Cumbria, to assist him in carrying out a full investigation, if these are requested.

With regard to the Potters Bar accident, it has already been established that there will be an enhanced inquest into that accident, and funding has previously been agreed to enable the Hertfordshire coroner to appoint an assistant deputy for this purpose. A High Court judge, Mr. Justice Sullivan, had been appointed accordingly; but he has since been made a Lord Justice of Appeal. We are working with the Lord Chief Justice to identify an appropriate judge to act as an assistant coroner in the Potters Bar inquest and I understand that he hopes to make a decision shortly. This inquest, which was adjourned following the Grayrigg accident, will provide an opportunity for a further independent examination of the Potters Bar accident, with the bereaved and injured able to participate in a forum that is open and transparent. I consider that, in the light of the court's comments during the earlier judicial review proceedings, the proposed full inquest into the Potters Bar accident should be capable of addressing any relevant unanswered questions.

The travelling public will want to be assured that the rail network is safe; I have an identical interest. I note that, in October 2008, the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), the independent rail safety regulator, assured the then Secretary of State that no further immediate actions to ensure the safety of passengers and staff were necessary as a result of RAIB's final report into Grayrigg, beyond those that had already been taken.

Moreover, in the light of the significant changes and improvements to the railway safety regime during the period between the Potters Bar and Grayrigg accidents, I believe it is in the public interest that the new structures are allowed to operate as intended. I note that actions have already been taken by RAIB and ORR following the Grayrigg accident to secure the ongoing safety of the railway. Since I am satisfied that effective investigation and action have already taken place, I see no good reason to take steps which may call the new structures into question prematurely or which might be seen as questioning the independence, value and outcome of the RAIB investigation into Grayrigg before the ORR, the rail industry and others have had a sufficient opportunity to act upon all of its recommendations.

As stated in the written statement to Parliament by the then Secretary of State on 23 October 2008, the Government consider it essential to ensure that the way forward selected is one that will deliver closure to those who were affected, as soon as possible. I do not consider that any significant advantage in timing would be achieved by setting up a public inquiry, such as to outweigh other considerations in favour of proceeding with two inquests, as has been suggested by some of those who made representations to me. The timetable for further investigations into these accidents is a matter for the coroners, who may wish to discuss the timing of the inquests given that there may be some overlap between the interested persons involved. However, even if the separate inquests are held sequentially, I anticipate that the two inquests are capable of being completed to a similar timescale as would apply to a public inquiry. In these circumstances, I consider that the way forward selected is consistent with my objective of helping to deliver closure to those affected with minimal delay.

I am grateful for the comments and observations received from interested parties, which have served to inform me in reaching a decision.

The full text of my decision has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available from the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 22 June 2009*

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Dyslexia

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** Today, I welcome the publication of Sir Jim Rose's report on identifying and teaching children with dyslexia or literacy difficulties.

In May 2008, I asked Sir Jim Rose to make recommendations on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia and on how best to take forward the commitment in the Children's Plan to establish a pilot scheme in which children with dyslexia would receive reading recovery support or one-to-one tuition from specialist dyslexia teachers.

Sir Jim's final report makes 19 recommendations for the Government, local authorities and schools on assessing and advancing children's progress, improving support to schools, strengthening teaching expertise, strengthening intervention programmes, assuring the quality of provision and providing guidance for parents and others.

We accept all those recommendations requiring action from my Department and also we endorse the recommendations requiring action from delivery partners.

My officials will look with the Dyslexia-Specific Learning Difficulties Trust at how they might best work with us at implementing the recommendations. I have set out our initial plans in my response to Sir Jim and we will provide further details in the autumn. We will make up to £10 million available over this and the next financial years, to support the implementation of Sir Jim's recommendations and on other projects—including those taken forward by the Dyslexia-Specific Learning Difficulties Trust—to improve outcomes for children with literacy difficulties and dyslexia. We plan to invest most of this in specialist training.

Copies of the report and our initial response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Marine and Fisheries Agency (Performance Targets)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies):** I have set the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) the following performance targets for 2009-10.

*Quality service delivery*

Licensing and monitoring of coastal and marine developments and activities to protect the marine environment and secure benefits from its use.

*Marine works*

Provide an initial response to 75 per cent. of applications within 12 weeks of the receipt of complete applications[1], summarising the responses to the consultation process and listing any replies still outstanding for which an extended response date has been agreed.

*Marine minerals*

Issue a screening determination on 80 per cent. of marine minerals applications within six weeks of receipt of the application.

*Renewables*

Confirm with applicants, in writing, when the negotiation stage of the renewables FEPA licensing progress has concluded and inform them of the licence decision within six weeks of the correspondence date.

Effective management and regulation of sea fisheries to secure a sustainable future.

*Fishing vessel licensing*

Issue 100 per cent. of over 10 metre licences biennially by 23 March and 100 per cent. of under 10 metre licences biennially by 30 June.

*Quota management*

No overfishing of quota stocks by vessels or groups for which the agency has management responsibilities and which results in EU deduction or infraction proceedings against the UK.

*Sea fisheries enforcement*

Deploy enforcement and inspection resources in line with risk weightings and undertake monitoring, control and surveillance activities leading to inspection based on risk and intelligence.

*Value for public money*

Deliver the MFA transition programme and relocation within the resources allocated working in collaboration as appropriate with DEFRA and other network delivery partners.

*Capacity and capability*

Ensure that agency maintains capacity to deliver its services during the relocation of the HQ to Tyneside and to develop its new and existing people through a comprehensive training and development programme working as appropriate in collaboration with DEFRA and other network delivery partners.

Further details are given in the MFA business plan for 2009-10, copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

[1] Include plans, charts, technical drawings, method statement and any environmental statement that may be required.

### "Appraisal of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management"

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** I would like to inform the House that the Defra policy statement: "Appraisal of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management" was published on Friday. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

This policy statement sets out guiding principles for the appraisal of plans and projects to manage flood and coastal erosion in England. It promotes a strategic, risk-based approach to assessing the costs and benefits of investment. The policy applies to operating authorities in England (the Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards) when considering investing public money in flood and coastal erosion risk management.

The Environment Agency will publish more detailed best practice guidance in support.

The intended benefits of the new policy statement include:

A greater focus on early involvement with the community and social factors; including better assessment of impacts on health, community well-being and social justice. It seeks to support the development of options that attract other sources of funding, to leverage Government investment and increase local and regional benefit.

A more thorough appraisal of a wider range of possible approaches including adaptation where it is not feasible to reduce the probability of flooding and coastal erosion from occurring.

A transparent framework for decision making to ensure that public investment represents good value for money.

A greater emphasis on flexibility in future, such as being able to adapt solutions over time as the climate changes. This supports Defra's coastal change policy which is currently being consulted on.

The statement follows on from the public consultation held in summer 2008. The draft statement received broad support and the final document published takes account of the main issues raised during the consultation. To build on this, I will review ahead of the next spending review what we want to achieve from Government investment, including whether there is a case for establishing outcome measures for agricultural land and commercial property, to broaden the existing focus beyond households, deprived areas, the economy, and the environment if the benefits justify the additional costs. I will also review the local government national indicator 189, to ensure that it encourages a partnership in tackling flood and coastal erosion through local and multi-area agreements.

The Environment Agency has also published "Investing for the future: a long term investment strategy" (a key recommendation of Sir Michael Pitt's review and from the EFRA Select Committee), a new external contributions policy, and "Flooding in England", a national assessment of flood risks as they currently stand.

Sir Michael Pitt concluded that long-term approaches to flood and coastal erosion risk management should not assume all costs should be met centrally, and recommended that local areas be encouraged to invest more in their own protection given the private as well as public benefits involved. I hope these publications, taken together with the new UK climate projections, will inform a public debate on what long-term goals society should seek in managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion given climate change, and how investment needs should be met. This will enable us to face up to the choices ahead, to take appropriate decisions based on the best evidence available, and to deliver sustainable flood and coastal risk management now and into the future.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### General Affairs and External Relations Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chris Bryant):** The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) was held on 15 June in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the Minister of State for Europe represented the UK. The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

The full text of conclusions adopted, including 'A' points, can be found at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/NewsRoom/loadDocument.aspx?id=349&lang=EN&directory=en/gena/&fileName=108527.pdf

*Preparation of the 18-19 June European Council*

The GAERC discussed the presidency's agenda for the June European Council. The European Council will focus on EU institutional issues; financial supervision and regulation; climate change funding mechanisms; employment; illegal migration across the Mediterranean; and external relations.

On institutional issues, there was widespread support for a positive outcome from the June European Council on Irish legal guarantees, with a view to securing the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty.

On financial supervision and regulation, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary agreed the system for micro-prudential supervision needed to be reformed; however, the new supervisory authorities should not have the power to impose decisions on national supervisors or firms, where those decisions would require member states to take fiscal action. On macro-prudential supervision, he agreed with the establishment of a European systemic risk board, but made clear that its chairmanship should be representative of the EU as a whole, not only the eurozone. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also noted the importance of G20 summit follow-up and preparation.

On employment, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear that any accelerated mobilisation of the social fund should remain within the existing financial perspective ceilings. He also suggested that June European Council conclusions should call for increased EIB lending, particularly to business and critical infrastructure projects, in order to accelerate economic recovery.

On climate change, the presidency said that the conclusions language would go forward to the June European Council, an outcome that the Government support.

On illegal migration, Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Malta emphasised the scale of the problem in the Mediterranean and its disproportionate impact upon them; they were looking for other member states to help share the burden. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary agreed with the need to address the issue at its roots — it was not enough just to deal with migrants when they arrived, we needed to take a more long-term approach, which prevents the migrants from travelling to the EU in the first place.

On external relations, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary welcomed the inclusion of an Afghanistan/Pakistan declaration in the European Council conclusions, and looked forward to the Pakistan summit on 17 June. He also noted that Aung Sung Suu Kyi's birthday would coincide with the European Council; even before a verdict in her trial, it would be appropriate for EU heads to send a message of support from the Council to her, and to demonstrate commitment to democracy in

Burma. The presidency confirmed that there would be European Council conclusions on Burma, which would send a clear message of the EU's intention to act.

The Government support these discussions at the June European Council. In particular, we welcome the continued co-ordinated EU response to the economic and financial situation.

*Enlargement*

The presidency decided to drop this item from the GAERC agenda.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The full text of all conclusions adopted can be found at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/NewsRoom/loadDocument.aspx?id=349&lang=EN&directory=en/gena/&fileName=108525.pdf

*Middle East*

High Representative Solana debriefed Ministers on his recent visit to the region and noted that continued EU-US co-operation would be vital, especially over the next few weeks. There was widespread agreement on the importance of further EU-US co-operation, addressing settlements, securing access to Gaza, and supporting a comprehensive, regional approach. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary agreed and urged the EU to encourage support for the Arab peace initiative.

Ministers agreed conclusions on the MEPP, welcoming the US Administration's commitment to pursuing a two-state solution and a comprehensive peace. They also confirmed the EU's readiness to work actively with the US and other Quartet members to achieve this goal and contribute substantially to post-conflict arrangements aimed at ensuring the sustainability of peace agreements.

Following the outcome of the elections in Iran, Ministers agreed conclusions without discussion, based on a UK text, setting out the EU's concerns about the post-election situation, focusing on the need to respect freedom of expression and, while underlining the EU's willingness to engage with Iran, stressing the need for Iran to meet its own responsibilities.

Ministers spoke positively about the conduct of elections in Lebanon, noting the longstanding EU contribution to help stabilise the situation there, and adopted conclusions that congratulated the people of Lebanon and encouraged all parties to co-operate with President Sleiman.

*Cuba*

The Council adopted conclusions, which renewed the EU's commitment to the common position and extended the EU-Cuba political dialogue for a further 12 months. The Council undertook to review these in June 2010, based on an assessment of progress on issues raised in the conclusions, in particular human rights and political reforms. The conclusions called for the Cuban Government to allow unimpeded contacts with civil society in the margin of high level EU visits. The presidency commented that practically no progress had been made by Cuba on human rights and civil liberties, however the EU would continue its two-track approach and keep open the door for continued dialogue. Developments would be closely monitored with a view to reporting back to the Council by the end of 2009.

*Burma*

Discussion of Burma in the context of the June European Council is recorded in the section "Preparation of the 18-19 June European Council".

The presidency noted that member states were united in their condemnation of the trial of Aung Sung Suu Kyi and in their desire for a robust response to the verdict. They underscored the importance of engaging Asian partners, of working to address circumvention of the existing measures and working through EU special envoy Fassino.

In terms of additional measures against the regime, there was consensus around the need to keep these under further consideration, pending the verdict of the trial.

*Western Balkans*

International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Chief Prosecutor Brammertz briefed Ministers on the co-operation of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia with the ICTY. Following an exchange of views on implementation of Serbia's Interim Agreement and following Brammertz's report on Serbia, Ministers noted that Heads of Government would discuss the issue at the June European Council.

The Council adopted conclusions on visa liberalisation, regional co-operation and Bosnia and Herzegovina — all of which the Government support.

*AOB*

*Sudan*

The Netherlands highlighted the need for a discussion in the autumn. Sweden, as incoming presidency, confirmed that this was in their plans.

*EU attendance at international meetings*

Sweden voiced its concern at the level of EU attendance at the recent ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Ministerial and EU-ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Foreign Ministers meetings; they urged the EU to plan meetings carefully and ensure proper attendance to deliver impact. The Commission supported.

*Illegal Migration*

Ministers discussed this issue in the context of preparations for the June European Council, as reported above.

*Georgia*

The presidency decided to drop this item from the GAERC agenda.

## HEALTH

### NHS Dental Services

**The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham):** Today the Department of Health is publishing Professor Jimmy Steele's report on the future of NHS dental services. The report sets out a clear vision for the future of NHS dental services which are accessible to all, provided to a high quality and focused on prevention and improving oral health.

Professor Steele was asked by my predecessor to conduct an independent and comprehensive review of NHS dental services in December 2008, and to provide advice on some of the specific issues raised in the Health Select Committee's report on NHS dental services published last July.

Professor Steele acknowledges the current problems that some people have in accessing NHS dental services and agrees that the NHS should continue to address specific capacity shortages through the current dental access programme.

Further, Professor Steele notes specific concerns that patients have about NHS dentistry, and makes recommendations on improving the provision of information to patients to help them find an NHS dentist, as well as improving support for NHS dentists to provide high quality care for more patients, as dentists themselves wish to do.

The report highlights many of the complexities in NHS dentistry and therefore recommends that all proposed changes to dentists' contracts should be piloted thoroughly, and that the recommended changes to the pathway of the dental patient through care should be evaluated carefully. It also recommends much more effective collection and use of information to help monitor and develop the quality and effectiveness of the care patients receive. The Government accept the recommendations in principle, subject to working through the detail of their financial implications. The report recognises the more difficult future fiscal environment, and rightly puts an emphasis on piloting, cost containment and more efficient ways of working. With that in mind, we will begin work immediately to set up the pilots and develop plans for further implementation, working closely with the profession as we do so.

I wish to put on record my thanks to Professor Steele and his team for an excellent report that will provide a way forward to improve NHS dentistry over the next decade.

This report has been placed in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Delivery Authority

**The Minister for the Olympics (Tessa Jowell):** The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has entered into agreements for Triathlon Homes LLP (Triathlon) to purchase 1,379 affordable homes on the Olympic village development. I have given a guarantee, as Minister for the Olympics, in support of those agreements.

Triathlon is a consortium of First Base and the registered social landlords Southern and East Thames. The principal agreements are between Triathlon, its debt funders and Stratford Village Development (GP) Limited (Stratford Village Development), a wholly owned subsidiary of the ODA which is developing the village on the ODA's behalf.

As Stratford Village Development is a newly established company, with minimal financial strength, the ODA has guaranteed its obligations under the terms of those agreements and has also undertaken to Triathlon, and its debt funders, to perform certain obligations which fall directly on the ODA.

The ODA itself has no significant sources of funding independent of Government and is expected to have a limited life span that many of Stratford Village Development's obligations are expected to exceed. In such circumstances, and given that the obligations go beyond the lifetime of the 2012 games, I have agreed to a ministerial guarantee of the ODA in support of its guarantees of Stratford Village Development and the ODA's direct obligations. Such a guarantee is provided for under the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006.

The guarantee essentially covers the ODA contracting to build and convert the units from athletes' use at games time to affordable housing specification and the ODA delivering its scope for the wider Olympic park infrastructure.

All Stratford Village Development's and the ODA's obligations to Triathlon and its funders are within the ODA's existing scope and budget—therefore no additional funding is required. As with the rest of the ODA's programme, there would be access to programme and funders' contingency, if it became necessary, from within the existing public sector funding package.

The obligations do not constitute additional contingent liabilities because the obligations covered by the guarantees can be funded within the overall public sector funding package for which a contingent liability was announced to Parliament in March 2007.

At the point at which the ODA is wound up, any remaining rights and obligations under its guarantees and direct undertakings will be managed and considered as part of the Government's decision at the time on the allocation of the ODA's remaining assets and liabilities.

## TRANSPORT

### Impounding Regime

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark):** The Local Transport Act 2008 includes powers for the Secretary of State to make provision, in secondary legislation, to establish a new regime for the impounding of illegally-operated public service vehicles (PSVs). A similar existing regime in the goods vehicle sector has contributed to a significant reduction in illegal operations.

The Government have consulted on proposals to establish a new impounding regime for PSVs, and to make some minor amendments to the existing goods vehicle regime. A response to the consultation is being published today, confirming the Government's intention to proceed with the proposals. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House, and on the Department for Transport's website.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw):** Following our ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 8 June, I am pleased to announce that the explanatory memorandum and Command Paper for ratification of the optional protocol to the convention will be laid before Parliament later today.

Ratification of the optional protocol is an important step and underlines the messages in the convention about respect for the human rights of disabled people.

As my statements of 3 and 27 February indicated, the optional protocol builds on the convention by establishing two additional procedures in respect of implementation and monitoring of the convention itself.

The first is a procedural avenue that, subject to meeting conditions set out in the optional protocol, will enable individuals or groups of individuals to bring petitions to the UN Committee that has been established to monitor implementation of the disability convention if they believe that their rights under that convention have been breached. The second is an inquiry procedure giving the Committee authority to undertake inquiries when reliable information is received into allegations of grave or systematic violations of convention rights.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 23 June 2009*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Civil Service Fast Stream Recruitment

**The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith):** The 2008 Fast Stream Recruitment Report is being published online today at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/faststream.aspx. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House and are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### School Teachers' Review Body Recommendations

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** Following the publication of the 18th report part 1 of the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) (Cm 7546) on 31 March 2009, to which I responded in a statement of that date, I have today written to consultees with the outcomes of my consultation on the report and my response. Copies of the letter are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office, the Libraries of the House, and at: www.teachernet.gov.uk/pay.

I shall be taking forward the recommendations on the teachers' pay award and pay ranges for excellent teachers for September 2009. Informed by the consultation I will implement interim changes to leadership pay that will better enable reward for system leadership roles. In this regard I am making one change to the recommended approach. I want to ensure that there are appropriate incentives for heads becoming responsible for the very largest federations of schools. I am not, therefore, accepting the STRB recommendation that there should a cap of 20 per cent. on the salary increase that is available to heads who take on permanent responsibility for running a number of schools.

To recognise the greater responsibility associated with running a number of schools, I will be encouraging governing bodies to make responsible use of the flexibilities that they already have to determine an appropriate level of pay for these heads in a way that is not constrained by the maximum of the leadership pay range but is appropriate, fair and transparent. These are interim arrangements while the STRB look in greater depth in the coming year at new pay arrangements for school leaders that will recognise and reward the vital contribution that they will make to the delivery of our vision of the 21st century school.

I shall also be following up a number of recommendations from the report concerning SEN payments in the context of a future remit which I will set for the STRB.

## DEFENCE

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies):** The provision of armoured fighting vehicles to our forces has attracted considerable interest among hon. Members and the British public. I am today announcing the MOD's new armoured fighting vehicles sector strategy and how it links to the defence industrial strategy.

The defence industrial strategy set out the Government's approach to the delivery of the capabilities required by our armed forces now and in the future, recognising the important contribution that the defence industry makes. Building on the principles of the DIS, the new AVF sector strategy lays out further guiding principles which will shape MOD's relationship with industry, setting the context for individual project decisions and contributing to a coherent sector programme.

In our strategy, we have changed the emphasis on how we meet our operational sovereignty requirements, making clear that it is not necessary to retain industrial capabilities in the UK in order to achieve appropriate operational sovereignty. We plan to make greater use of the global market, particularly within the EU and NATO, so long as we have assured access to the appropriate capabilities and expertise to design, modify, maintain, repair, overhaul, assemble, integrate and test our armoured fighting vehicles. Of course our critical requirement for affordability and value for money will remain. We continue to have a requirement to manufacture certain UK-specific critical sub-systems onshore and we will retain onshore the ability to maintain, repair and overhaul our vehicles, making use of the Defence Support Group. However where bids we receive offer comparable value for money, I will always take into account employment and industrial considerations in this country.

Contrary to our present position which normally involves manufacturers or lead contractors retaining the exclusive right to the use of the design information of platforms or systems we acquire, we will in future in principle wish to acquire at the outset rights over design information, as well as assured access to relevant design knowledge, sufficient to allow third party modification of designs where appropriate, and to permit routine maintenance repair and overhaul activities.

Our strategy will generally be to procure base vehicles which can provide a suitable platform for the systems we require and which allow for modification and enhancement in the light of future developments in technology and future operational requirements. This strategy will cover the whole of our AFV fleet, both legacy and future. As an intelligent customer, we need to be able to define technical standards and architectures and make intelligent decisions about using the right technologies and integrating them using best systems engineering practice. Where we do not have these in-house, we will need to source independent advice from elsewhere.

We owe a great debt to the men and women of the armed forces who operate in hostile environments, risking their lives to secure freedom and to ensure that international terrorism, which threatens us all, is not allowed to take hold. We must ensure that they receive the very best

support and the very best equipment for the roles they are undertaking. In this statement today, I have outlined a new strategy, one which will enable us to make the best procurement decisions in support of our armed forces. I believe that once the strategy is fully implemented it will ensure that we give our armed forces the armoured fighting vehicles they need and deserve to do their jobs as safely and effectively as modern technology can provide at best value for money for the UK taxpayer.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Climate Change Adaptation Sub-Committee

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** In my oral statement to the House on 18 June I warned that the threat to the UK posed by floods, heat waves and coastal erosion presents a great challenge which we need to plan for. According to the UK climate change projections, the UK faces warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers, with more drought, heat-waves, flooding and sea-level rise. The results illustrate how important it is for the country to plan for the impacts of climate change. The projections underline that cutting global greenhouse gas emissions to limit future climate change is essential for the UK—as for the rest of the world.

In response to this, experts have been appointed to the Adaptation Sub-Committee to the Committee on Climate Change , which has been established under the Climate Change Act 2008 to advise Government on their work on the national climate change risk assessment, and ensure that the Government's adaptation programme enables England to prepare effectively for the impacts of climate change.

I am announcing the first six members of the Adaptation Sub-Committee to the Committee in Climate Change today. They are: Dr Sam Fankhauser, Professor Martin Parry, Professor Jim Hall, Dr Andrew Dlugolecki, Baroness Barbara Young and Mr Graham Wynne. The Sub-Committee will be headed by the newly-appointed Chair Lord John Krebs.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Zimbabwe

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** The House will have seen reporting of the visit to London by Morgan Tsvangirai, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, on 19-24 June 2009. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and I met Mr. Tsvangirai yesterday and made clear our determination to support him in bringing to Zimbabwe the change demanded by ordinary Zimbabweans.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced that the UK's assistance for Zimbabwe will increase to £60 million this year, including an additional £4 million for food security and £1 million for textbooks for Zimbabwean school children. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development also met Mr. Tsvangirai and set out how that pledge will include support for improvements to Zimbabwe's water and sanitation infrastructure to reduce the likelihood of further cholera outbreaks, as well as resources to help work to tackle HIV and rebuild the health sector, livelihood support and food aid.

We want the inclusive Government to succeed, and to help them meet their commitments to reform outlined in the global political agreement. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear, we are prepared to provide further support to help rebuild Zimbabwe should there be further progress by the Zimbabwean Government in meeting their commitments to deliver political and economic reform. The Zimbabwean Government have made some progress in delivering reform, notably on the economic front, but much more needs to be done to deliver improved services and security to ordinary people. This includes work to implement IMF recommendations and reform the Central Bank; to reform the constitution as a prelude to new elections; to promote respect for human rights, freedom of the media and the repeal of repressive legislation; and to stop land seizures.

The southern African region has a key role to play in supporting reform in Zimbabwe. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister signalled yesterday our wish to work closely with South Africa, and I look forward to working with the new South African administration. My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown is in regular touch with Ministers from the southern African development community, a number of whom he met this month in Cape Town.

We will continue to do what we can to support Zimbabwe and its neighbours in seizing this historic opportunity for reform in Zimbabwe, and to build on the positive momentum generated by Morgan Tsvangirai's visit to work with reformers to make progress on key issues.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Parliamentary Standards

**The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman):** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and I have today presented to Parliament the Parliamentary Standards Bill.

We are grateful for the constructive cross-party discussions that preceded the Bill's introduction. This Bill is the first stage of legislation and covers the specific but important and urgent task of setting up an independent authority. There is likely to be subsequent legislation where this is judged necessary, not least in the light of further cross-party discussions.

The Bill will create a new Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) to regulate the system of allowances, set rules to deal with financial interests and put the requirement for a code of conduct for MPs on a statutory footing.

The IPSA will be independent of Parliament and will have the power to set an allowances and expenses system without requiring Parliamentary approval. It will regulate and oversee Members' expense claims and oversee the new allowance system.

The Bill will establish a Commissioner for Parliamentary investigations that will have the power to conduct investigations and report to the IPSA. The IPSA will be able when necessary to direct those who have received allowances they were not entitled to, to repay money. In addition the IPSA will be able to direct an MP to amend his or her entries in the register of financial interests.

The IPSA will be able to recommend that the House exercises its disciplinary powers to withhold a salary for a specified period, suspend a Member from the House for a specified period or expel a Member from the House.

The IPSA also has the power to refer matters to the police. The Bill will create new criminal offences of:

knowingly providing false or misleading information in a claim for an allowance, for which the maximum sanction is up to 12 months custodial sentence or an unlimited fine;

failing without reasonable excuse to comply with the rules on registration, for which the maximum penalty is a fine of up to £5000;

and breaching the rules which prohibit paid advocacy, for which the maximum penalty is a fine of up to £5000.

The IPSA will work transparently and the Freedom of Information Act will apply both to the IPSA and to the Commissioner for Parliamentary investigations.

The IPSA will be made up of four members and a Chair. Selection to the authority will be on merit and by fair and open competition. A candidate for appointment as the Chair or as a Member must be selected by the Speaker of the House of Commons with the agreement of the Speaker's Committee set up by the Bill.

The Bill, together with explanatory notes, is available to Members from the Vote Office.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 24 June 2009*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Report to Parliament on Civil Service Delegations/Authorisations

**The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith):** During 2007 delegations/authorisations were made to the Ministry of Justice, the Welsh Assembly Government and the National School of Government and in 2008, to the Government Equalities Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The delegations/authorisations were made subject to the condition that recipients comply with the provisions of the civil service management code as amended from time to time. Copies of the civil service management code are available in the Library of the House and electronically at: http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/codes/csmc/index.aspx

Any delegations/authorisations made in 2009 will be reported in spring 2010.

## TREASURY

### Financial Services Authority Annual Report

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry):** The annual report 2008-09 of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) has today been laid before Parliament. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report forms a key part of the accountability mechanism for the Financial Services Authority under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), and assesses the performance of the Financial Services Authority over the past 12 months against its statutory objectives.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Sports Betting Integrity Panel

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe):** The Government are determined to ensure that everything possible is done to maintain the integrity and reputation of sport. I am therefore delighted to announce that I am bringing together a new sports betting integrity panel under the chairmanship of Rick Parry. This panel will include representatives of the betting industry; sports governing bodies; players; the Gambling Commission; and the police. The panel's main focus will be the design and implementation of an integrated strategy to uphold integrity in sports and associated betting.

The vast majority of sports betting is legal and fair, and enhances the enjoyment of sport for many fans. But betting also provides an opportunity and an incentive for corrupting sport through the use of unfair or illegal betting practices.

The Government are concerned that, although considerable progress has been made in recent years by sports governing bodies, the betting industry and the Gambling Commission, the possible threat to the integrity of sport remains an ever present and complex problem requiring multi-agency solutions.

If the UK is to maintain its reputation as a jurisdiction where fair play is the guiding principle for both sport and betting, it is vital that the risks of corruption arising from all sources are reduced as far as possible.

The sports themselves—governing bodies, clubs and players—the betting industry and enforcement authorities, principally the Gambling Commission and the police, all play important roles. To help co-ordinate the work of those parties, and to facilitate collaboration between them, the panel will bring together key people from the principal organisations involved, under the chairmanship of Rick Parry, to look at these issues and make recommendations on how the various bodies concerned can work together more effectively.

Within six months the panel will recommend to me a practical, effective and proportionate plan of action that has the support of those responsible for delivery.

Mr. Parry is currently chief executive of Liverpool football club and has many years' experience in professional sport at a senior level. I believe this experience makes him an ideal person to chair the panel and I look forward to working with him.

The members of the panel will include:

Nic Coward, Chief Executive, BHA

Simon Barker, Director of the Professional Players Federation and ex-pro footballer

Ian Seabridge, Asst Chief Constable, ACPO lead on Gambling

Darren Bailey, Director of Governance, The FA

Mark Davies, Managing Director, Betfair

Chris Caisley, Partner, Walker Morris Lawyers—Head of Sports Law Group

Dave Boyle, Chief Executive, Supporters Direct

Nick Tofiluk, Director of Regulation, Gambling Commission

Ben Gunn CBE QPM, Sporting Integrity Expert

Mike Smith, Chairman, Tote

Mike O'Kane, Trading Director, Ladbrokes

Bill South, Director of Security, William Hill

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan Air Support

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell):** The statement by my predecessor, the right hon. Member for Coventry, North-East (Bob Ainsworth) on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 24-25WS, referred to a delay from spring until summer 2009 of the deployment of Tornado GR4 aircraft to replace a broadly similar force of Harrier GR9 aircraft at Kandahar airfield, Afghanistan.

I can confirm that necessary supporting infrastructure at Kandahar is now in place and all Tornado GR4 urgent operational requirement enhancements have been delivered. Consequently Tornado GR4 aircraft deployed to Kandahar in mid-June and, after a period of joint operations with the Harrier force, today the Tornado GR4 force has taken over sole responsibility for RAF fast jet support in Afghanistan.

The transition from Harrier to Tornado in theatre has been seamless. During the handover the Tornado force has proved that it is fully capable of fulfilling all the roles required of it in support of coalition ground forces. Those forces will continue to benefit from the flexibility and broad range of capabilities offered by UK fast jet aircraft.

The remaining elements of the Harrier force are preparing to leave Kandahar shortly, with the final Harrier personnel planning to return to their home base at RAF Cottesmore in early July. Joint Force Harrier has made a significant and acclaimed contribution to coalition air operations during its four and a half years service in Afghanistan and the personnel within this force can be proud of all their many achievements in this operational theatre.

### Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre Feasibility Study

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones):** I am pleased to announce that a feasibility study will be undertaken to look at the possibility of establishing a Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre in around 10 years' time, looking at how the whole issue of rehabilitation should be developed in 21st century terms. The study will build on the remarkable achievements of the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court in Surrey, and exploit what we and others have learnt in recent times about complex injury. It will look at doing so in the context of creating a national centre for civilian as well as military rehabilitation. We shall also look at the inclusion of rehabilitation research, the potential for developing further our world-class para-Olympic athletes and a "train the trainer" capability for rehabilitation in conflict and post-conflict afflicted states. We shall be considering potential sites in the midlands with close links to the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, and estimate that the study will take about a year to complete.

The feasibility study will consult widely across Government, the NHS and the charitable sector. The trades unions will also be consulted fully. An external benefactor has agreed to sponsor this feasibility work. This continues a long and distinguished tradition of charitable involvement in the care of injured service personnel, including in this context the work of the Headley Court Trust, Help for Heroes, SSAFA, BLESMA and Brain Injury and Rehabilitation Trust (BIRT), to name only a few. I stress that this work will scope possible options for creating a Defence and National Centre with the defence capability at its core—there are no foregone conclusions.

The Government are committed to delivering state-of-the-art treatment for our injured service personnel. They deserve nothing but the best. The MOD continues to invest in DMRC at Headley Court to ensure its provision of world-class care. We would only envisage leaving Headley Court if there were an assured level of future care that surpassed even that which is offered by DMRC's current and planned capabilities.

While this work is long term, an immediate issue is attending to the convalescence and recovery of service people, not least those who have been treated at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and have subsequently undergone rehabilitation at Headley Court. To that end, a defence-led study is under way to consider how to make the best possible provision in this area, starting with a pathfinder centre near Edinburgh, in conjunction with the charities Erskine Homes and Help for Heroes. The pathfinder will enable us to learn lessons, which will help inform our judgment about how best to provide convalescent care in the future and help prepare wounded, injured and sick personnel to return to duty or transition to civilian life.

### People Pay and Pensions Agency

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones):** The key targets that I have set the chief executive of the People, Pay and Pensions Agency are as follows:

*Delivering Results*

Individual performance targets have been agreed between the agency and the MOD as its principal customer reflecting both business requirements and the need to continue to drive down costs through efficiency improvements.

*Key Target 1*—Achieve agreed unit cost targets for salary payments; expenses payments; pension awards; internal posting; external recruitment; manpower substitution; promotion assessments; subject access request; and the working patterns and leavers service. These targets reflect financial savings which are expected to arise from efficiency gains.

*Key Target 2*—Achieve key performance indicators for timeliness and accuracy set in the agency's service level agreement. The indicators cover salary payments, pensions and HR transactions and advice.

*Key Target 3*—Achieve key performance indicators for access to the agency's services. The detailed indicators cover availability and speed of responses of both its call centres and its major online electronic service.

*Reputation*

*Key Target 4*—Achieve customer satisfaction targets set in the agency's service level agreement: 78 per cent. satisfaction index for pay, pensions and expenses services; 64 per cent. satisfaction index for HR services; 85 per cent. for sampled users satisfied or better.

*How We Work*

*Key Target 5*—Achieve second phase of HR service maturity programme by March 2010. In conjunction with customers, a small number of specific projects have been agreed for reviewing and improving HR services and procedures which have high business priority.

*Reputation*

*Key Target 6*—Maintain and extend customer service excellence and other external accreditations by March 2010.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney):** My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, today made the following statement:

I am today announcing the outcome of the Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and I am publishing a policy document, "A Prevailing Wind: Advancing UK Offshore Wind Deployment", that explains in more detail the Government's decision on the offshore wind element of the draft plan/programme. The policy document draws together the key ongoing and planned work to enable large-scale deployment of offshore wind, as well as setting out the next steps. A copy of this document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In 2006, DECC initiated a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on a draft plan/programme to hold further rounds of offshore oil and gas licensing, including licensing of gas storage in hydrocarbon reservoirs, and some 25 GW of additional offshore wind leasing in United Kingdom waters. The SEA is documented on a dedicated website (www.offshore-sea.org.uk) and includes a range of field surveys, technical studies and syntheses of data commissioned to underpin the SEA assessment. For offshore (seaward) oil and gas licensing and for offshore gas storage licensing the SEA covered all UK waters. For offshore wind leasing, the SEA covered those parts of the UK renewable energy zone and the territorial waters of England and Wales where the water depth is around 60 metres or less. The Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Executive are the competent authorities for conducting Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) within their territorial waters. Both of these authorities are currently undertaking SEAs for the purposes of enabling offshore wind leasing in these areas.

An expert assessment workshop was held to consider the key issues to be addressed in assessing the draft plan/programme. In addition, three sector-specific workshops and three wider stakeholder workshops were also held to gather industry perspectives and stakeholder input on relevant issues. The results of these workshops were assessed further and documented in an environmental report which then formed the basis for statutory, public and international consultation. In January 2009, the three-month consultation period on DECC's draft plan/programme and environmental report commenced and was advertised in a number of local and national newspapers and by e-mail notification to a wide range of individuals and organisations.

All responses received from consultees on the draft plan/programme and the environmental report have been considered by DECC and a post-consultation report for the offshore energy SEA has been prepared and placed on the SEA website today. This summarises consultee comments and DECC responses to them, and presents a final list of recommendations, some of which have been revised following feedback from consultees. The full texts of consultee comments have also been placed on the SEA website.

DECC has now fully considered the conclusions and recommendations of the offshore energy SEA environmental report together with feedback received from consultees. In the light of the final recommendations set out in the post-consultation report, the Department concludes that there are no overriding environmental considerations to prevent the achievement of our draft plan/programme of leasing for offshore wind, and licensing of oil and gas production, and gas storage, if mitigation measures are implemented to prevent, reduce and offset significant adverse effects.

In all cases, the relevant competent authority will undertake any appropriate assessment(s) prior to awarding licences or leases under the rounds, if required following screening. This is required under EU Council Directive 79/409 EEC on "the conservation of wild birds" and Council Directive 92/43/EEC on "the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora", and UK implementing regulations.

Monitoring the potentially significant environmental effects identified within the SEA will be undertaken using existing mechanisms and those to be set up under the auspices of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) and Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

For offshore wind, the Crown Estate is the leasing authority and can now proceed with offshore wind leasing competition(s). Within UK waters, the Government have decided that there should be spatial restrictions on offshore wind development in specific geographic areas as indicated in the recommendations of the post-consultation report. These spatial restrictions are issue and criteria-based, including for example military practice and exercise areas, airspace danger areas and International Maritime Organisation routes. As these boundaries and locations may change over time, the maps contained in the environmental report are indicative.

As the offshore wind policy document "A Prevailing Wind" published today makes clear, the Government, and DECC in particular, will have a continuing role to play in facilitating policy interventions necessary to help deliver the offshore wind element of our plan/programme. DECC, with the Crown Estate, has a cross-departmental Offshore Wind Delivery Board to develop and oversee this work.

For oil and gas, DECC will now proceed with preparations for a further round—the 26th—of offshore licensing. This is expected to be launched early next year—a further announcement will be made on the timing of the round.

For offshore gas storage, DECC will be the licensing authority and the Crown Estate will be the leasing authority, working in parallel with each other. DECC is currently considering the responses to the recent "Consultation on the proposed offshore gas storage and unloading licensing scheme". DECC will issue the Government response in due course, indicating how the licensing scheme is to go forward.

## HEALTH

### Cervical Screening

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen):** I announced in my written ministerial statement on 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 36WS, that we had asked the independent Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening (ACCS) to formally review the evidence relating to risks and benefits of cervical screening in women under 25 years, including current evidence regarding incidence and mortality in young women.

The review took place at an extraordinary meeting of the ACCS held on 19 May 2009. The ACCS is an independent ministerially appointed committee, with most members nominated by their respective professional bodies. A number of guests were also invited to the review meeting to ensure all opinions and available evidence were heard, including the voluntary sector and patients.

No new scientific evidence was presented to the review meeting to support the reintroduction of screening in women under 25. Indeed some new evidence was presented indicating that screening is of little or no benefit in women in this age group. There is evidence that treatment following screening in this age group can lead to an increased risk of subsequent premature births, increasing the risk of babies dying or having severe disabilities. Evidence was also presented that showed there has been no significant increase in the number of women aged under 25 contracting or dying from cervical cancer since the policy change in 2004.

Members of the committee were unanimous that there was no reason to lower the age at which screening commences, which is in line with international recommendations

Members of the committee were, however, concerned that young women who present to their general practitioners with gynaecological symptoms are not always being given appropriate advice. They strongly recommended that the Department of Health should take further

action in this area, and the ACCS will be considering how best to take this forward as a matter of urgency at their meeting on 25 June 2009. Members also recommended that more effort is made in increasing the uptake of cervical screening in women aged 25 to 34, where coverage has been falling in recent years. We will develop plans with NHS Cancer Screening Programmes and the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative to take this forward.

The committee will keep the decision closely under review, especially by monitoring the incidence of cervical cancer in young women. In the interests of transparency, the minutes of the review meeting have been placed in the Library and are available at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Cancer/index.htm

I would like to thank Jo's Trust for their contribution to the review, and pay tribute to the family of Claire Walker for continuing to raise the awareness of cervical cancer.

### Employment Strategy (Learning Disabilities)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope):** The Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Minister with responsibility for disabled people, my hon. Friend the Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw) and I are today publishing a new strategy—"Valuing Employment Now: Real jobs for people with learning disabilities".

The Government are committed to supporting more people with learning disabilities into jobs. "Valuing People Now, a new three-year strategy for people with learning disabilities" published on 19 January 2009, emphasised that people with learning disabilities are entitled to the same aspirations and life chances as other people including the opportunity to work.

This cross-Government strategy sets out an ambitious goal to increase radically the number of people with learning disabilities in employment by 2025. The Government want as many of these jobs to be at least 16 hours per week. We aspire to close the gap between the employment rate of adults with moderate and severe learning disabilities and that of the disabled population as whole, currently estimated at 48 per cent.

The strategy includes action to raise expectations throughout the system that all people with learning disabilities can and should have the chance to work: from birth and early years through education, among health and social care staff, local authorities, employment agencies, employers, and people with learning disabilities themselves and their families. The strategy is supported by a detailed delivery plan.

The strategy and delivery plan have been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

## JUSTICE

### Sentencing Guidelines Council Annual Report

**The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw):** I have today laid before Parliament the annual report of the Sentencing Guidelines Council. The Sentencing Guidelines Council has published its annual report, jointly with the Sentencing Advisory Panel, giving details of the excellent work it has achieved during the past year and outlining its ongoing work plans in 2009.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Consultative Group on the Past

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward):** I have today published a consultation paper on the recommendations of the Consultative Group on the Past. Dealing with the legacy of the events of the last forty years remains one of the greatest challenges still facing Northern Ireland. The Consultative Group on the Past was established in 2007 and asked to make recommendations about steps that might be taken to support Northern Ireland society in building a shared future that is not overshadowed by the events of the past.

When the report was published, one recommendation—that £12,000 recognition payments should be made to the relatives of all those who died as a result of the troubles—dominated all discussion of the report, and overshadowed all the other 30 recommendations.

I have already confirmed that the Government do not propose to take this recommendation forward. However, I am concerned that there has not yet been a thorough debate about the other recommendations in the report. That is why the consultation paper I am publishing today invites everyone to study all of the recommendations carefully and share with the Government their views on each of them.

In particular, I am calling on the political leaders in Northern Ireland to engage fully in a study of the proposals. The way forward cannot be imposed on Northern Ireland; it must be based on emerging and wide-ranging consensus. Achieving that consensus will not be easy but I believe that if the recommendations are studied carefully there will be those that will have widespread support.

The consultation period will run until 2 October 2009. Whatever the outcome of the consultation may be the Government will continue to support Northern Ireland on the path to reconciliation.

I have arranged for copies of the consultation paper to be placed in the Libraries of the both Houses of Parliament.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 25 June 2009*

## TREASURY

### Double Taxation Convention (United Kingdom and Belgium)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms):** A new protocol to the Double Taxation Convention with Belgium was signed on 24 June 2009. The text of the protocol has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Firebuy Ltd

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Shahid Malik):** I should like to inform the House that, in the light of our review of national procurement in the fire and rescue service (FRS) in England, we propose to make a number of changes affecting Firebuy Ltd, the professional buying organisation for the service.

Firebuy Ltd was established as a non-departmental public body on 30 March 2006 to deliver the 2005-08 national procurement strategy for the FRS. Within the current arrangements, Firebuy has been effective in establishing national fire-specific procurement for vehicles and equipment and has delivered benefits for the service.

There is a continuing need to drive procurement efficiency at a national level in the FRS, particularly in the light of targets for collaborative procurement set by the Government's operational efficiency programme and we believe that a national procurement body represents the best way to deliver fire-specific collaborative procurement. This will be reflected in the revised national procurement strategy, which we intend to publish in July, taking account of responses to the consultation last year and the recommendations of the operational efficiency programme.

However, going forward there is a need to consider the future role and structure of the body delivering FRS national procurement, particularly given that the Department must also make longer term provision for managing ongoing FiReControl and Firelink contracts. We propose, therefore, that Firebuy's functions should in future be carried out within a larger organisation, integrating national procurement with the management of the service contracts for the Fire And Resilience programme (Firelink, FiReControl and New Dimension). Firebuy already performs this function in respect of New Dimension. More detailed proposals for in-service management of the Fire and Resilience programme will be set out in a consultation paper, which we will publish shortly.

I am grateful to the current chair and board of Firebuy for the work they have done and for agreeing to have had their terms of office extended to November 2009 while the review was under way. A new board for the NDPB will be required from that date to reflect the new role of the organisation. Recruitment of the board will commence in the summer of 2009, including representation from the key stakeholders.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### EU Energy Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney):** I am writing to update the House about the recent Energy Council in Luxembourg on 12 June. The UK was represented by Andy Lebrecht, the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU.

As expected, the Council discussed and agreed the Commission's proposal for a revision of the Council Directive on Oil Stocking (Council Document 15910/08). The directive will align the EU to International Energy Agency regulations, and increase the EU's resilience to disruptions in oil supply.

This was followed by a report from the presidency on progress on the three energy efficiency directives currently being negotiated by the Council and Parliament. These are related specifically to Labelling (Council Document 15906/08), Tyres (Council Document 15920/08), and Buildings (Council Document 15929/08).

Finally, the Commission and presidency presented information on a number of developments in EU external energy relations, including those with Russia, Ukraine, the Energy Community Treaty, OPEC, and the G8.

Over lunch, Ministers had the first opportunity to discuss the potential location of the agency for the co-operation of energy regulators which will be established by the third package of legislation on the EU's internal energy market. Slovakia, Romania and Slovenia have all put themselves forwards as candidates. As all received roughly equal support from member states, further discussions will now take place.

### Road to Copenhagen (Public Awareness)

**The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband):** An ambitious international agreement to tackle climate change will affect everyone in the UK, and is vital for our future security and prosperity. I am today publishing a pamphlet—"the Road to Copenhagen"—aimed at raising public awareness of the international negotiations which culminate later this year at Copenhagen, and the key issues being debated. In addition, the pamphlet provides practical advice for people on the actions they can take in their own lives to reduce their own carbon footprint and make a contribution towards reducing carbon emissions. I will be making arrangements for the pamphlet to be widely disseminated. Tomorrow I will be publishing a detailed document explaining the UK's aims for the Copenhagen negotiations.

Copies of the pamphlet will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### UK Sustainable Development Commission

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** The Prime Minister has approved the appointment of Will Day as the new chair of the UK Sustainable Development Commission (SDC). This part-time appointment will take effect on 27 July when Jonathan Porritt steps down after nine years as chair.

Will Day has a strong background in international development. He is the former chief executive of Care International and has spent a significant amount of his career based in Africa. In the UK he has held many roles, including: chairman of BBC Children in Need, external adviser to the BBC Corporate Social Responsibility Board and non-executive director of South Kent NHS Hospitals Trust.

### Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (Performance Targets)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies):** I have set the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) the following performance targets for 2009-10.

*Service delivery*

*Customer satisfaction to exceed 82 per cent.*

To provide high standard of services to the satisfaction of customers. Measured through weighted average of customer response to post-contract survey that covers seven aspects of service quality. Incorporates project delivery metrics.

*Science quality indicators to exceed 75 per cent.*

To enhance scientific capability and reputation, using indicators grouped around research, wider dissemination and use of our science, and scientific capability. Measures include customer surveys, numbers of peer reviewed scientific papers and investment in new science.

*Value for public money*

*Recover the full cost of our services*

To demonstrate financial sustainability through sound operational financial management and appropriate investment in CEFAS' future, including the delivery of CEFAS' transformation plan. Measured through achieving an audited break-even result in 2009-10.

*Effectiveness gains*

To deliver £0.5 million of effectiveness gains, generated through a combination of non-DEFRA income growth, improvements in project effectiveness and reduced overhead costs.

*Capacity and capability*

*Sustainability indicators to exceed 75 per cent.*

To demonstrate a healthy and safe working environment, together with progress towards being an exemplar for sustainable development, through a range of indicators.

*Staff satisfaction survey to exceed 65 per cent.*

To respect and help the agency's people to develop. Measured by an annual questionnaire to staff, using a weighted scale for the eight survey categories.

Further details are given in the CEFAS business plan 2009-10, a copy of which will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Pitt Review (Progress Report)

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** I have today placed in the House Library copies of an update report detailing the progress the Government have made in implementing the recommendations contained in Sir Michael Pitt's report on the 2007 summer floods. A copy of the report is also on the DEFRA web site at: www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/floods07.htm

Significant progress has been made. We have published a draft Flood and Water Management Bill for consultation, and will develop firm legislative proposals in the light of comments from Parliament and consultees. However, in advance of the Bill becoming law, we have taken immediate action to help communities at risk of flooding. Since the summer 2007 floods we have for example:

Increased Government funding from £600 million in 2007-8 to a forecast of £780 million for 2010-11, with an additional £20 million brought forward into this year's budgets to allow an early start to projects that will benefit 27,000 homes when complete.

Completed 85 flood defence schemes, protecting nearly 58,000 additional homes in England. Operating authorities are currently on course to exceed delivery targets and provide better protection to 160,000 homes over the three years to March 2011.

Signed up 136,000 additional people to receive flood warnings in England and Wales.

Set up a £7.7 million flood forecasting centre, jointly run by the Environment Agency and Met Office, which is already providing important services to local authorities and emergency responders, helping them to be better prepared for potential flooding.

Announced a £5 million grant scheme for householders for property-level flood protection like air bricks and door boards. I am announcing today the results of the first round of this scheme which will provide greater flood protection to nearly 600 households in England.

Announced funding for 27 places for local authority participants in the existing Environment Agency foundation degree programmes and other local flood risk management training. This will help ensure that local communities have the expertise they need to help them protect themselves from flooding.

Provided the first allocations to six local authorities from the £15 million funding allocated to help the highest priority areas manage surface water flood risk. Progress on implementing the first tranche as well as next steps on the remaining funds will be announced later this summer.

Announced £1 million funding for three projects to demonstrate how land management change and working with natural processes can help protect against flooding.

Published a long-term investment strategy, the Environment Agency's assessment of the costs and benefits of investment over the next 25 years given the latest projections of climate change. I am keen to encourage a public debate on how future funding needs are best met.

Published a new policy statement on appraisal of flood and coastal erosion risk management, to ensure better value for money in the investment decisions made.

The Government have today announced that around 99 per cent. of those displaced by the summer 2007 floods are now back in their homes. We sympathise with those who for whatever reason have not yet been able to return and are committed to ensuring the remaining families get back into their homes as soon as possible.

The Pitt progress report explains how we will complete implementation of Sir Michael's recommendations, with target dates. The risk of flooding remains and last week's publication of the UKCP09 climate projections underlines how it will increase in the future as a result of

climate change. The Government remain determined to make this country better able to anticipate and deal with the impacts of flooding. I will continue to keep the House informed of progress through future progress reports, the next of which will be due around the turn of the year.

### Former Central Science Laboratory (Report and Accounts)

**The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jim Fitzpatrick):** The 2008-09 annual report and accounts for the Central Science Laboratory was laid before Parliament today.

This is the final report and accounts for the Central Science Laboratory which from 1 April 2009 became part of the Food and Environment Research Agency.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell):** I am pleased to announce that the 2008-09 annual report of the appointed person under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 has been laid before Parliament today. The appointed person is an independent person who scrutinises the use of the search power introduced to support the measures in the Act to seize and forfeit criminal cash.

The report gives the appointed person's opinion as to the circumstances and manner in which the search powers conferred by the Act are being exercised. I am pleased that the appointed person, Andrew Clarke, has expressed satisfaction with the operation of the search power and has found that there is nothing to suggest that the procedures are not being followed in accordance with the Act.

From 1 April 2008 to the end of March 2009 over £106 million in cash was seized by law enforcement agencies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland under powers in the Act. The seizures are subject to further investigation, and the cash is subject to further judicially approved detention, before forfeiture in the magistrates court. These powers are a valuable tool in the fight against crime and the report shows that the way they are used has been, and will continue to be, closely monitored.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office.

### Youth Crime Action Plan

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson):** In conjunction with the Secretary of State for Justice and the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, I will today publish the summary of responses form the Youth Crime Action Plan consultation.

We received 86 responses, which are summarised in the document, with an outline of the initial Government response to the issues raised. In due course we will report progress on delivering the commitments in the YCAP, and next steps.

Copies of the consultation will be placed in the Library and the Vote Office.

## JUSTICE

### Freedom of Information Act 2000

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills):** Today I have deposited copies of the "Freedom of Information Act 2000—Fourth Annual Report on the operation of the Freedom of Information Act in Central Government —2008" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and are available on the internet at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

This is the fourth annual report analysing the performance of central Government in the fourth full year since the commencement of the Freedom of Information Act.

Today I have also deposited copies of the "Freedom of Information Act 2000— Statistics on implementation in Central Government: Q1—January - March 2009" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is the quarterly monitoring statistics report analysing the performance of central Government in the fifth full year of freedom of information.

## PRIME MINISTER

### National Security Strategy

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown):** I am today laying before the House the first annual update to the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom Security for the Next Generation (cm 7590), and the Government's first Cyber Security Strategy, Safety, Security and Resilience in Cyber Space (cm 7642).

The purpose of the national security strategy, published for the first time in March last year, is to bring together in a single strategic framework the Government's analysis of, and response to, the full range of national security risks—recognising that today more than ever these risks, and the underlying drivers, are increasingly interconnected and require a more co-ordinated approach.

The 2009 update fulfils the Government's commitment to report on activity and progress over the past year, from counter-terrorism, to military and civilian support to Afghanistan, to peacekeeping and conflict resolution in a range of countries, and to combating H1N1 influenza.

The report also updates our assessment of the security challenges facing the United Kingdom, including a detailed analysis of the implications of the current global economic downturn, which has shown—and this view is shared by our key partners and by external experts—that so far the nature of the security landscape has not altered fundamentally, although we will need to remain vigilant, especially against the dangers of instability in already poor regions, or any trend towards protectionism. The events of the past year have also reinforced the importance of a strongly internationalist approach, and the strategy update sets out detailed and ambitious plans for strengthening the international response to

the long-term global security risks arising from climate change, poverty, and energy shortages, building on the concerted global action to stabilise the world economy over the past year.

The report covers the different 'domains' in which security challenges must be addressed, and identifies cyber space as one increasingly important domain in which individual, commercial and state security can be threatened, whether by other states, or terrorist or criminal networks. We are therefore publishing, alongside the overall strategy update, the UK's first national cyber security strategy, outlining improvements to Government structures, additional funding, measures to enhance our ability to detect attack, better risk assessments, programmes to develop cyber security industrial capabilities and workforce skills, and support and advice for individual citizens.

The Cabinet Committee on national security, international relations and development oversees delivery of the national security strategy. It takes advice from the expert national security forum. Parliamentary scrutiny is provided by the Joint Committee on the national security strategy, which will start work this summer. The strategy is a comprehensive and transparent account of the risks the UK faces and the action we are taking to tackle them, and provides a basis for Parliamentary and wider public debate on our national security priorities.

## TRANSPORT

### Eurostar

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole):** My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport, has made the following ministerial statement.

I am today announcing that the UK Government are in the course of concluding their negotiations with SNCF and SNCB to incorporate the existing tri-national Eurostar operations into a single company. The UK Government, via London and Continental Railways Ltd, will have a substantial minority shareholding in the new Eurostar company. Subject to further work and final agreement, this shareholding will be in the order of 40 per cent.

Eurostar is the pre-eminent international passenger train operator. This is recognised by the record 9 million passengers that used the service to travel between London and the continent last year, following the opening of the High Speed 1 line from St Pancras International station. Eurostar is not only very successful service, but has also saved around 40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions as a result of attracting extra travellers who would otherwise have travelled by plane since the move to High Speed 1.

The Government's aim, as shareholders, have always been to provide Eurostar with the stability and sustainability to develop its services on a properly stand-alone commercial basis, operating in a newly competitive market.

The proposals under finalisation with SNCF and SNCB are designed to achieve those objectives.

The principal part of the discussions to be concluded is to convert the present Eurostar operation, which is an unincorporated joint venture operating cooperatively but separately in the three partner countries, into a single incorporated company. As such the UK will contribute to the new venture the assets and interests of Eurostar (UK) Ltd, which is currently a wholly-owned subsidiary of London and Continental Railways Ltd.

The company will have a strong board with an independent chairman and independent non-executive representation, as well as UK and other partner shareholder representatives. There will be proper shareholder rights and protections for the UK as a minority shareholder.

The final terms remain subject to further work being undertaken by the Eurostar management and final commercial agreement between the parties and a confirmation that SNCB will join the new venture. I would expect to make a further announcement on these matters later this year.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Friday 26 June 2009*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Learning and Skills Council (FE Capital Programme)

**The Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs (Kevin Brennan):** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is announcing today a shortlist of 13 further education building projects which are proceeding to the next stage of development. The 13 projects announced today have been prioritised from over 180 projects submitted to the LSC as part of the latest round of the FE capital programme.

The LSC has been working in close consultation with the sector to use transparent and objective criteria to inject funds where they will have greatest impact for learners, employers and communities, to get building work started quickly, and to get best value for the taxpayer.

The LSC examined all projects which are ready to proceed quickly and then applied the following criteria: the education and skills impact; contribution to local economic and regeneration priorities; co-dependency (for example, where there is significant leverage of third party funding or another important project that is dependent on the college project); the current condition of the estate; and value for money.

The 13 colleges will now be asked by the LSC to make cost reductions to their initial project plans, to maximise borrowing within prudent limits, and to examine other possible sources of funds, while at the same time maintaining the planned project benefit for future learners and enabling construction to proceed rapidly. The aim of the LSC is to deliver best value for money for the taxpayer and to fund the maximum possible number of projects.

The 13 colleges are:

Barnsley College
Bournville College
Furness College
Hartlepool College of Further Education
Kirklees College
Leyton Sixth Form College
Manchester College—Wythenshawe
North West Kent College
St Helens College
Sandwell College
South Thames College
Tresham Institute of Further and Higher Education, Corby
West Cheshire College

Discussions between these colleges and the Learning and Skills Council will take place as a matter of urgency. All 13 colleges will receive funding only if the overall cost is reduced. The reductions required are significant but manageable.

For colleges which have not been selected to proceed this year, the next steps start this autumn when the Learning and Skills Council will further consult with the sector to agree a robust, fair and transparent process for prioritising the capital investment programme for the next spending review period starting in 2011-12. The size and scope of the programme will depend on the outcome of the next spending review.

Many colleges have incurred development costs for projects which will not now be going ahead in the short term. The Learning and Skills Council has a contingency fund to mitigate the impact of potential aborted costs on the financial health of colleges. This will be limited to those appropriately incurred within the terms of the capital programme.

The investment announced today will have a significant beneficial impact on the colleges, their learners and on local communities.

Budget 2009 announced an additional £300 million of capital investment in further education as part of a fiscal stimulus package which has enabled a number of projects to be funded this year. This Government have an excellent record on investment in FE capital and since 2001, 700 projects—at nearly 330 colleges across England—have been funded.

Mistakes were made by the Learning and Skills Council in carrying out the FE capital programme. In April of this year, Sir Andrew Foster completed an independent report on how this whole situation arose. He concluded that "a good policy has been compromised by the manner of its implementation". There is now new leadership to the organisation and measures in place to ensure that there will be no repeat of those mistakes as the programme moves forward.

The Government remain committed to the FE capital investment programme, and this will continue into the next spending review. The Learning and Skills Council will in the meantime help colleges whose projects are not proceeding in the short term to draw up a revised estates strategy and to examine other possible sources of finance such as collective approaches to private financing and borrowing.

## TREASURY

### Double Taxation Agreement (United Kingdom and Qatar)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms):** A Double Taxation Agreement with the State of Qatar was signed on 25 June 2009. The text of the agreement has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Road to Copenhagen

**The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband):** I am today publishing the "Road to Copenhagen" (Cm 7659), setting out the Government's priorities for the forthcoming international climate change negotiations in Copenhagen this December.

The Copenhagen summit is a critical moment in the fight against dangerous climate change. Climate change is a global problem, with direct consequences for the future prosperity and security of the United Kingdom. It can only be addressed through a comprehensive global agreement between all countries represented at the Copenhagen conference.

To show ambition matching the science, an agreement must aim to limit global temperature increases to no more than 2 degrees celsius, the point beyond which the risks of dangerous climate change become greater. It must be effective, driving low carbon investment and with monitoring of outcomes to ensure commitments made are kept to, and it must be fair, particularly in helping the poorest countries adapt to the consequences of climate change.

To achieve these goals, the Government's priorities for the Copenhagen agreement are:

i) Ambitious action to reduce emissions. Global emissions must peak and start to fall before 2020 and be at least 50 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2050, if temperature increases are to be limited to no more than 2 degrees. The Government are therefore calling for firm, binding targets from developed countries; and significant action by developing countries with appropriate support from developed countries, to reduce their emissions below "business as usual" levels.

ii) A reformed, expanded carbon market to support emissions reductions, and action to extend flows of carbon market finance over time, including: the establishment of new sectoral carbon trading systems in advanced developing countries by 2020 at the latest; sectoral crediting in other developing countries where appropriate; and a reformed clean development mechanism.

iii) A new international framework for low-carbon technologies to be more rapidly developed and deployed; including new low-carbon development strategies in which individual countries assess their own technology needs; capacity building support; and incentives to encourage international collaboration.

iv) Commitments to deep reductions in emissions from deforestation, halving tropical deforestation by 2020 and achieving zero net loss of forest by 2030; with new short-term financing mechanisms; and more comprehensive arrangements to account for emissions reductions from deforestation and land use.

v) Enhanced support for developing countries to adapt to climate change, with adaptation integrated into national development planning processes; support for developing countries in prioritising their own adaptation needs; and greater international support for better sources of information on climate risks and adaptation expertise.

vi) Commitment to provide international finance that is adequate, additional, predictable and timely, through a combination of sources including the carbon market, potential new automatic mechanisms, and a small, limited proportion of official development assistance (ODA). All countries except the least developed should contribute, using a transparent and dynamic formula based on emissions and ability to pay, and based on the understanding that developing countries will receive significantly more than they contribute. The UK remains committed to our target of providing 0.7 per cent. of our gross national income as ODA by 2013 and will provide finance for climate change that is new and additional to this. All ODA will be climate proofed and up to 10 per cent. of ODA will be used for activities which achieve both poverty reduction and climate objectives.

vii) Reformed international institutional arrangements which ensure an equal voice for developing countries and that decisions on spending priorities are made at the country level; simple, efficient and effective mechanisms for allocating finance to priority areas and countries that need them most, consistent with international standards of financial management; and robust monitoring, reporting and verification arrangements.

With our EU partners, the Government will be working intensively over the next six months to press for a global agreement which reflects these priorities, including through the negotiations under the United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC); full participation in the major economies forum convened by the United States Government; the G8; and the G20.

Copies of the "Road to Copenhagen" will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### State Visit: President of the Republic of India

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** I am pleased to announce that Her Majesty the Queen has invited the President of the Republic of India, Her Excellency Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil, to pay a state visit to the United Kingdom from Tuesday 27 October to Thursday 29 October 2009. The visit will further the close relations that exist between the United Kingdom and the Republic of India.

# Petition

*Tuesday 16 June 2009*

## OBSERVATIONS

## TRANSPORT

### Roads (Cheshire)

*The Petition of residents of Hartford, and others,*

The proposed slip road to be built at Bradburns Lane and Chester Road will destroy a triangular grassed area with an ancient fountain, leading to the irreversible loss of a major village feature; further declares that the proposals ignore the area's status as a designated conservation area; believes that the slip road will offer no benefit to Hartford residents and that it would only marginally improve traffic flow from Winnington Urban Village; further believes that the slip road would be a waste of £500,000 of public money; and supports the Hartford Civic Society, the Parish Council and the Borough Conservation Manager in their opposition to the proposed slip road.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take whatever action possible to prevent the construction of the slip road at Bradburns Lane and Chester Road.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Mike Hall, Official Report,* 20 May 2009; Vol. 492, c. 1606 .]

[P000374]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:*

Cheshire West and Chester Council, as Highway Authority, has responsibility for the provision of traffic management measures on roads within their boundary.

This scheme referred to covers the junction work at Bradburns Lane and changes on the A559 Chester Road including:

Capacity improvements and new pedestrian crossing facilities, along with new facilities for cyclists, at the Bradburns Lane and The Green junctions.

More pedestrian refuges to help people cross the road and to encourage a reduction in traffic speed.

Footway widening at points where the narrowness of footways causes problems for pedestrians, particularly those with wheelchairs or pushchairs.

New dropped kerbs with improvements for visually impaired people at side roads to help pedestrians, particularly those with wheelchairs or pushchairs.

Improvements to bus stops by providing new shelters.

Kerb realignment at some side road junctions to increase road safety by slowing down traffic and to help pedestrians.

Road safety improvements to the junction layout of School Lane and The Green.

I understand that the issues raised by the Civic Society were carefully considered by the Highway Authority, Parish Council and local Members who also took into account the general benefit to Hartford residents and other road users that they believe this scheme will bring.

Work on the scheme started on 18 May 2009 and should be completed by the end of August 2009.

# Petitions

*Tuesday 23 June 2009*

## OBSERVATIONS

### CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

#### Schools (Yorkshire)

*The Petition of residents of Barwick, and others,*

Declares that providing a secondary school of 900 places in or on the periphery of Barwick would offer choice and diversity to the parents and children of Ingleby Barwick, improve standards of education for children, and would allow children to be educated locally within their town; believes that this could be achieved by moving the secondary school currently based in Egglescliffe to Preston (within the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees) so that children from both areas could attend the school.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to support the request made by parents to move the secondary school currently based in Egglescliffe to Preston (within the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees) so that children from both areas could attend the school.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[ Presented by Ms Dari Taylor, Official Report,* 20 May 2009; Vol. 492, c. 1605 .]

[P000372]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:*

The Government recognise that a decision on the provision of compulsory education and any school re-organisation is never an easy one. Local authorities are responsible for planning school places in their area, and have a duty to ensure that there are sufficient places and that high quality education is provided in a cost effective way. The Government would expect the local authority, in this case Stockton-on-Tees borough council, to think strategically about its school estate and re-organisation, having analysed future requirements such as demographic changes to ensure a better match between the need for places, parental preference and the supply of places, and to consult widely on its proposals.

It is for the Stockton local authority to determine the precise nature of the communications and consultation with its partners. They must consult and inform all interested partners and allow adequate time and provide sufficient information for this process. Our advice to all local authorities, including Stockton, is to start consulting early. All the normal processes associated with major changes to schools still apply, including the requirement to produce statutory proposals where required.

All local authorities in the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme are asked to produce a 'Strategy for Change' that sets out the key challenges and objectives for the local authority in terms of transforming education, and how they plan to deliver these—Stockton is no exception.

Stockton-on-Tees local authority has already started its BSF programme. Schools in the south of the borough, including Egglescliffe, have been allocated to a future wave of investment; the timing of which is to be confirmed.

Given the early stage of planning for Egglescliffe school there is plenty of time for full consideration to be given to securing the best possible solution locally for Egglescliffe school and other schools in Stockton's second BSF wave. The Government would expect the local authority to include the local Member of Parliament and residents of Stockton in this consultation.

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Planning and Development (Essex)

*The Petition of Mr and Mrs Hall and others,*

Declares that, as the close neighbours of the development at 9B Westwood Road, Canvey Island, who are really the only ones directly affected by the issue, they support the building alterations and are happy for the new roof extension on the property to remain and do not feel that it destroys the street scene in any way and that it would be disproportionate to force the removal of the alterations.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to respect the views of those living in the surrounding houses and to approve the appeal.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[ Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 1 June 2009; Vol. 493, c. 134 .]

[P000376]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:*

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning appeal has been submitted in respect of the above development. The appeal was received on 28 May.

Since the appeal is currently before the Secretary of State for formal determination, he cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of the appeal.

The appeal will be determined by an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State after an exchange of written representations between Mr and Mrs Hall, who are the appellants, the local planning authority and any other interested parties. He will also visit the site to assess the likely impact of the proposed development on the surrounding area.

Decisions on planning appeals are required to be in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Government's statements of national planning policy, such as Planning Policy Statement 1 "Delivering Sustainable Development" and Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing", are material considerations that must also be taken into account, where relevant. It is, however, the responsibility of the inspector to weigh up all the issues in the context of specific local circumstances, having regard to the views of the appellants, the local planning authority and any other interested persons.

#### Planning and Development (Plymouth)

*The Petition of people concerned at the proposed development of an energy from waste plant at Ernesettle, Plymouth,*

Declares that the site identified by Plymouth City Council for an energy from waste plant at Ernesettle, Plymouth, is totally inappropriate for many reasons including the loss of playing fields.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to persuade Plymouth City Council to reconsider their decision and investigate alternative sites.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[ Presented by Alison Seabeck, Official Report,* 11 May 2009; Vol. 492, c. 656.]

[P000366]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:*

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware of the proposal for an energy from waste incinerator in Plymouth. Plymouth city council has allocated four sites within its Waste Local Development Document (DPD).

This DPD has been through a full public consultation exercise in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The DPD was submitted to the Secretary of State on 29 August 2007 for an independent examination; the examination was carried out on 6 February 2008 and the document was found to be sound. The DPD was adopted by Plymouth city council on the 21 April 2008.

I understand from officials in the Government Office for the South West that no planning application for an energy from waste incinerator at Ernesettle (Plymouth) has been submitted to the council for determination. The determination of planning applications is primarily the responsibility of the city council, as the local planning authority, and the Secretary of State cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of any application or prospective application.

Decisions on planning applications are made in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Government statements of national planning policy, such as Planning Policy Guidance Note 10 on planning and waste management, and the soon to be published Regional Spatial Strategy, are material considerations which must be taken into account, where relevant, in planning decisions. It is the responsibility of the local planning authority to identify and weigh all of the issues in the context of the specific local circumstance, having regard to the views of local residents and other interested parties.

Once an application has been submitted to Plymouth city council for determination, if requested, the Secretary of State will consider call-in of the application for a public inquiry. The Secretary of State will call in applications, where she considers it raises issues of more than local importance, but his policy is to be very selective about this. As it is possible that this proposal may, at some future date come within his jurisdiction, it would be inappropriate to comment on the matter raised in the petition.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Immigration (Asylum Seekers)

*The Petition of the Vincentian Millennium Partnership,*

Declares that to be an asylum seeker in 2009 in the United Kingdom can entail any or a variety of the following experiences—detention (often for years), poor housing, isolation, being moved at short notice from communities where the person has been integrated for several years with the resulting severance from their regular sources of spiritual, emotional and medical support, being denied a choice of shops through a poverty level voucher scheme which amounts to £35 per week and, most importantly, being prevented from working or from engaging in voluntary work which often leads to depression and a lack of self worth; further declares that refusal by the asylum seeker to comply with the "system" often leads to destitution and that the only alternative may be criminal activity or prostitution; notes that being an asylum seeker often means being made a scapegoat, especially by the tabloid press which often uses a case of wrong doing by one asylum seeker to demonise them all; further notes that stories about asylum seekers being given priority for high quality housing in preference to local people are blatantly untrue but become part of the myths surrounding them; and believes that to be an asylum seeker in the United Kingdom today is to live on the edge of starvation as a cruel warning to others not to come to the United Kingdom.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for the Home Department to ensure that those entering our country seeking asylum are treated in a just and compassionate manner which honours the long-standing British tradition of treating newcomers to these islands with welcome, respect and fairness; and further urges the Secretary of State to seek to enshrine in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill the rights of asylum seekers to adequate housing, ESOL (English as a Secondary Language) Classes, Criminal Records Bureau checks, earn a wage and contribute to taxes, engage in voluntary work, integrate into local communities, and become valued citizens of the UK.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[ Presented by John Battle, Official Report,* 29 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 1001.]

[P000354]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:*

The UK Border Agency proudly maintains the country's tradition of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with the UK's international obligations. Our process for meeting those obligations is fair. All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), against the background of the latest accurate, objective, sourced and up-to-date information on asylum seekers' countries of origin produced by the UK Border Agency Country of Origin Information Service.

If an individual claiming asylum demonstrates a need for international protection and they meet the definition of a refugee under the terms of the 1951 Convention, asylum is granted. If they are otherwise vulnerable they may engage our obligations under the ECHR in which case they will be granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. If their application is

refused, they have a right of appeal to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) or an opportunity to seek judicial review through the higher courts. In this way we ensure that we provide protection to those asylum seekers who need it through a fair and transparent process.

Our asylum support policy is properly balanced. No person who has sought protection need be destitute whilst they have a valid reason to be here. Asylum seekers who need support to avoid destitution are given it from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim is fully determined (appeal rights exhausted). Support takes the form of accommodation or subsistence or both.

The UK Border Agency provides accommodation to asylum seekers who are destitute, or likely to become destitute, whilst their claim (including any appeal) remains under consideration. This accommodation is provided under "target contracts" with public sector and private sector accommodation providers which specify the standards and services that need to be provided. There is a robust system in place to ensure that accommodation supplied is safe and habitable. The UK Border Agency seeks to accommodate individuals in regions (other than London) where they were previously in receipt of asylum support, where applicable.

Vouchers are only used for failed asylum seekers being supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. In other words, they have been found by UK Border Agency and the independent courts not to have a protection need. They are on support as a temporary measure because they are taking steps to leave the UK or there is a valid reason why they cannot return immediately. Support continues until the barrier to leaving the UK is resolved and providing the recipient continues to meet the eligibility criteria. As section 4 is only intended as a temporary form of support, these criteria are inevitably tight.

Legislation does not allow for section 4 support to be provided in cash but additional non-cash provision is available to meet specific needs including travel to medical appointments, maternity payments and clothing for children.

Our asylum support policy incorporates sufficient safeguards: for families with dependent children under the age of 18 years who continue receiving support until they leave the UK; for children and vulnerable adults qualifying for local authority care provision; and for people who are temporarily prevented from leaving the UK through no fault of their own who are provided with accommodation and vouchers if they would otherwise be destitute.

The UK Border Agency is introducing a payment card, personalised for each applicant, to replace section 4 vouchers. The payment card will provide the individual with a much wider choice of retail outlets, be more fraud resistant and less stigmatising. It will centralise and simplify the delivery chain, especially in the administration of additional services and facility payments. The scheme will be piloted in the north west and London in July.

When an asylum seeker has been found not to need protection it is our policy to discontinue providing support. We do not consider that it is right to ask the UK taxpayer to continue to fund those who choose to remain here when they have no grounds to stay and it is open to them to return to a home country that has been found safe for them to live in.

We plan to introduce proposals for reform of asylum support under the draft Simplification bill in October 2009. Our objectives in reform are to ensure those seeking asylum are effectively and comprehensively supported during the determination of their claim; that the system for achieving this is as simple and efficient as possible; and that it works towards the return of those who have no protection needs and who have no right to be in the United Kingdom. The UK Border Agency has held discussions with our key stakeholders on asylum support to inform these proposals and public consultation is planned.

The Government welcome the enormous contribution that the skills and knowledge of genuine refugees make to our society and economy but permitting asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers to work is not in line with Government policy. It is important to maintain the distinction between economic migration and asylum. Giving asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers permission to work would be likely to encourage asylum applications from those without a well-founded fear of persecution, slowing down the processing of applications made by genuine refugees and undermining the integrity of the managed migration system.

This is why we do not generally allow asylum seekers to work while their claim for asylum is under consideration. The only exception is asylum seekers who have been waiting 12 months for a decision where this delay cannot be attributed to them. Allowing asylum seekers to work in these circumstances is in accordance with the EC Directive on the reception of asylum seekers.

It is important that those who apply for asylum in the UK have their applications processed as quickly as possible and we have set a target to conclude (grant or remove) 90 per cent. of asylum applications within six months by December 2011. Those who are recognised as refugees will therefore be able to work here legally much sooner than in the past, enabling them to make a contribution to the UK.

A change to the policy on employment would create a disincentive to departure for unsuccessful asylum seekers and we believe would act as a draw for those who want to come to the UK for economic reasons, compromising the integrity of our asylum system and slowing down the asylum application process for others.

The UK Border Agency does not use detention arbitrarily and no one is detained simply for having claimed asylum.

Detention is a regrettable but necessary element in maintaining an effective immigration control and a fair asylum system. It is only authorized where it is considered appropriate in the particular circumstances of an individual case. Individuals may be detained pending inquiries as to their identity or basis of their claim, to prevent absconding, to effect removal from the UK or where the asylum claim is one that may be decided quickly.

Although Immigration Act powers to detain are not time limited, domestic and case law under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) provides that detention must last for no longer than is reasonably necessary for the purpose for which it is authorised and must not be of excessive duration.

Detention can be prolonged by individuals who seek to frustrate our attempts to remove them: the courts have held that continued detention is lawful in such cases.

The Government place great emphasis on the importance of an integrated and cohesive British society and it is important that those who qualify for refugee status in the UK are enabled to integrate and enjoy the rights and responsibilities of living in the UK.

On 1 October 2008 the Refugee Integration and Employment Service was rolled out nationally to support individuals who have been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection and are over 18 years of age.

It is important to secure public confidence in the immigration and asylum systems so we can defend the position of those who are here legitimately.

# Petition

*Thursday 25 June 2009*

## OBSERVATIONS

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### European Working Time Directive (Fire Fighters)

*The Petition of residents of Brecon and Radnorshire, and others,*

Declares that the European Parliament's proposed abolition of the opt-out from the European Working Time Directive poses a threat to the retained fire fighter system in the United Kingdom; and further declares that the United Kingdom should maintain its right to opt out of the European Working Time Directive so that the retained fire fighters are able to continue with their commitment to the vitally important fire service.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to do all in their power to preserve the right to opt out and to keep our rural fire stations open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Roger Williams, Official Report,* 3 June 2009; Vol. 493, c. 351 .]

[P000377]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:*

The third Conciliation Committee Meeting on amendments to the Working Time Directive ended without agreement on 27 April, concluding these negotiations. The Council and the European Parliament were unable to agree, in particular on the issue of the individual's right to opt-out of the 48 our working week. The collapse sees the end of the European Parliament's proposal to phase out the opt-out in three years and means the existing Directive remains in force, including the opt-out as it currently stands.

The Government were successful in our pledge to push for the retention of the opt-out as we understand the importance to UK workers of this right. Many, like those in the retained fire service, choose to make use of this important flexibility and we are firmly of the view that this right should remain.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 15 June 2009*

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Developing Countries: Malaria

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what ring-fenced uplift in resources each of his Department's in-country programmes has received to fund the procurement of bed-nets in each of the next three years. [279197]

**Mr. Thomas:** As stated in the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 264W, the costs of supplying 20 million bed nets for Africa are being drawn from our country programme budget allocations for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. No additional resources have been specifically ring-fenced for this purpose.

### Liberia: Corruption

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid the UK has given to Liberia to tackle corruption in the last three years; and what his most recent assessment is of levels of corruption in Liberia. [279376]

**Mr. Thomas:** Since 2005 the Department for International Development (DFID) has contributed approximately £150,000 in supporting the Government of Liberia in its efforts to establish the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and to develop and finalise its National Anti-Corruption Strategy. In 2008, DFID also paid off outstanding arrears owed by the Liberian General Auditing Commission (GAC), which amounted to a total of $43,145, allowing the Auditor General and his staff to attend specialised training courses to enable them to undertake more comprehensive and detailed audits of government finances.

The Government of Liberia is firmly committed to tackling corruption and prosecuting those involved. Though challenges still remain, significant progress has been made to improve financial checks and balances, to improve the capacity of the Liberian General Auditing Commission and in sending for prosecution any individuals (government or otherwise) accused of corruption.

### United Nations: Females

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to support the creation of a United Nations Agency for Women; and if he will make a statement. [279076]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK Government's policy is to support the establishment of a single United Nations (UN) agency for women. The UK Government are working closely with other UN member states to get agreement through the General Assembly to establish such an agency.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the pre-deployment urgent operational requirements planned for the Tornado GR4s due to be deployed to Afghanistan have been completed. [279736]

**Bill Rammell:** Yes. And I plan on making a written statement to the House shortly.

### Air Force: Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of pilots for each aircraft type in the RAF is. [279958][1]

**Bill Rammell:** The information requested is provided in the following table:

| *Aircraft type* | *Required* | *Actual* |
|---|---|---|
| C130J | 133 | 130 |
| C130K | 73 | 79 |
| VC10 | 64 | 51 |
| TriStar | 48 | 46 |
| C17A | 53 | 46 |
| HS125 | 17 | 16 |
| BAel46 | 10 | 7 |
| GR4 | 134 | 129 |
| Typhoon | 60 | 68 |
| F3 | 23 | 30 |
| Harrier | 48 | 48 |
| Nimrod MR2 | 58 | 46 |
| Nimrod R1 | 10 | 10 |
| Sentinel R1 | 21 | 14 |
| E3D | 32 | 28 |
| KingAir | 32 | 27 |
| Dominie | 15 | 9 |
| Tutor | 31 | 46 |
| Tucano | 50 | 47 |
| Hawk | 97 | 84 |
| Puma | 96 | 85 |
| Chinook | 101 | 93 |
| Merlin | 75 | 64 |
| Squirrel | 18 | 16 |
| SeaKing | 89 | 74 |
| Griffin | 22 | 23 |
| Augusta 109 | 5 | 5 |
| Predator | 8 | 8 |
| Reaper | 14 | 11 |
| Islander | 7 | 7 |
| Total | 1,348 | 1,347 |

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of pinch-point trades are in breach of their *(a)* tour interval guidelines and *(b)* individual separated service guidelines. [279955]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 19W. The position remains the same and there is nothing further I can add.

1. *[Official Report, 1 July 2009, Vol. 495, c. 5MC.]*

### Armed Forces: Pensions

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost of paying pensions at an equivalent level for UK service people to *(a)* Commonwealth soldiers and *(b)* soldiers of other nationalities who served in the British armed forces between 1947 and 2004. [278716]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** All non-British personnel serving now in the armed forces have exactly the same pension arrangements as the wider armed forces. It has long been Government policy not to implement improvements to pensions and similar benefits retrospectively, a policy that has been applied across the public sector in the United Kingdom. Information of the full cost of doing so is not available, however, it has been estimated that to pay retrospective pensions to Gurkhas would cost the MOD £1.5 billion.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Panther vehicles are being upgraded as part of the recently announced £20 million improvement package. [279553]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** 67 Panther Command and Liaison vehicles are being modified to a Theatre Entry Standard.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the role of the Vector vehicle fleet following its withdrawal from operations; and whether planned upgrades to the fleet suspension system and wheel hubs will continue. [279647]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The future role of the Vector Light Protected Patrol Vehicle when it is withdrawn from operations in Afghanistan is under review. The current programme to upgrade the suspension and wheel hubs of the fleet of Vector will continue.

### Army: Training

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many infantry combatants' courses at Catterick Infantry Training Centre have been cancelled in the last 12 months. [279939]

**Bill Rammell:** Between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, the last full year for which records are available, two Combat Infantryman Courses for the Parachute Regiment and one for the Guards were cancelled.

### Defence Infrastructure Information Project

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of the Release 2C stage of the Defence Infrastructure Information Project has been, broken down by budgetary heading; how many desktop terminals have been delivered under the project; and if he will make a statement. [278985]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) programme will deliver a single, secure, coherent and high quality computer infrastructure service across the whole of defence. The associated software functionality is being delivered in stages, called Releases, but I can confirm there is no Release called "2C". The costs of software releases are not held separately as they are an intrinsic part of the wider delivery nor are they associated with desktop terminal numbers.

The current contract will run until 2015 and is let on an incremental basis. It includes Increment 1, Increment 2a and 2b, which provide office, mobile and deployable capabilities, and in January 2009 we signed a contract extension for Increment 2c, to provide new operational capability in the Top Secret domain. The approved programme costs for Increment 2c are £257 million; the contract element is £191 million at 2008 prices.

The whole DII Programme has to date delivered 75,000 terminals, with 190,000 users now live on the system.

### Defence: Procurement

**Mr. Bruce George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the recommendations contained in the National Audit Office report on the Risk of Fraud in Defence Procurement, Session 1994-5, HC 258, have been *(a)* fully and *(b)* partially implemented. [278799]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The conclusions made by the National Audit Office Report on the Risk of Fraud in Defence Procurement reflect the progress made by the Ministry of Defence and have been implemented in full or in part.

The report concluded overall that the Department had made good progress in implementing actions on those areas of procurement most at risk and recognised that a plan was in place to strengthen existing measures and introduce new fraud deterrence and detection initiatives. In 1999, the Department created the Defence Fraud Analysis Unit (DFAU), and in 2006 established the Defence Irregularity Reporting Cell to act as the central point for the reporting of all suspicions of irregularity, including fraud, theft and corruption. Defence Equipment and Support, which was formed in 2007, has created a Defence Crime Forum to address the risk of fraud and corruption in the procurement environment.

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of days taken to pay an invoice by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies was in each month since November 2008. [279523]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The Department does not keep statistics on the average number of days taken to pay suppliers' invoices. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is working towards payment performance within a target date of 10 working days in accordance with the Government's Prompt Payment Initiative. Information currently available for the Department, its agencies and trading funds since November 2008 is as follows:

| | Percentage paid within 10 days | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | MOD and agencies | UKHO | Met Office | DSTL |
| November 2008 | 72.3 | — | — | 19.7 |
| December 2008 | 85.0 | — | — | 26.0 |
| January 2009 | 80.0 | — | 55.5 | 46.0 |
| February 2009 | 85.0 | — | 82.5 | 19.9 |
| March 2009 | 90.7 | 94.7 | 86.2 | 38.3 |
| April 2009 | 92.8 | 97.6 | 81.3 | — |
| May 2009 | 98.4 | 98.1 | 77.5 | — |

We are working with the Defence Support Group towards a target to pay trade creditors' invoices within 10 days of receipt.

## Departmental Press

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279418]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** A list of newspapers and periodicals centrally contracted for delivery to the private offices of Ministers in the Department is provided in the table. The total cost for these newspapers and periodicals for March 2009 was £729.41.

| Newspaper | Frequency | Total number of copies |
|---|---|---|
| *Daily Express* | Monday to Friday | 3 |
| | Saturday | 1 |
| *Daily Mail* | Monday to Friday | 4 |
| | Saturday | 1 |
| *Daily Mirror* | Monday to Friday | 3 |
| *Daily Record* | Daily | 1 |
| *Daily Telegraph* | Monday to Friday | 4 |
| | Saturday | 1 |
| *Sunday Telegraph* | Weekly | 1 |
| *Financial Times* | Monday to Friday | 4 |
| | Saturday | 1 |
| *Glasgow Herald* | Daily | 1 |
| | Saturday | 1 |
| *Guardian* | Monday to Friday | 4 |
| | Saturday | 1 |
| *Independent* | Monday to Friday | 4 |
| *Independent on Sunday* | Weekly | 1 |
| *Independent on Saturday* | Weekly | 1 |
| *International Herald Tribune* | Monday to Friday | 1 |
| *International Herald Tribune* | Saturday | 1 |
| *Tribune* | Monthly | 1 |
| *The Sun* | Monday to Friday | 3 |
| | Saturday | 1 |
| *The Times* | Monday to Friday | 4 |
| *Sunday Times* | Weekly | 1 |
| *Times Saturday* | Weekly | 1 |
| *The Economist* | Weekly | 3 |
| *The New Statesman* | Weekly | 4 |
| *The Spectator* | Weekly | 3 |
| *Evening Standard 1st Edition* | Monday to Friday | 2 |
| *The Scotsman* | Monday to Friday | 1 |
| *The Observer* | Weekly | 1 |
| *Scotland on Sunday* | Weekly | 1 |
| *Private Eye* | Twice monthly | 2 |

## Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how he plans to allocate responsibility for defence procurement matters to his Ministers. [279986]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The right hon. Lord Drayson will be Minister of State for Strategic Defence Acquisition Reform, leading on the reform of Defence acquisition, Defence Research and Development, and championing new technologies in Defence. As the architect of the Defence Industrial Strategy he will lead work on the next version of the strategy. He will also have responsibilities as Minister of State, Department of Business Innovation and Skills, for Government policy on science and innovation.

Quentin Davies MP will remain as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Equipment and Support, with his existing responsibilities for the Defence Equipment Programme through life, performance management of Defence Equipment and Support and its agencies, and the MOD interest in Defence exports. He will work with Lord Drayson on acquisition reform. He will also assume the UK lead responsibility for the High Level Working Group with the French Government on equipment cooperation.

## Heroes Return 2 Scheme

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding had been allocated to veterans under the Heroes Return 2 scheme on the latest date for which figures are available. [278308]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The Ministry of Defence has allocated no funding for veterans under the Heroes Return 2 scheme, which is being funded by the Big Lottery Fund. The Heroes Return 2 scheme will provide funding to help World War II veterans resident in the UK or the Republic of Ireland to participate in commemorative visits, both within the UK and overseas, to mark the 65th and other anniversary events that led to the end of WWII.

The scheme opened on 1 April 2009 and up to 29 May it had received 1,115 applications and made 599 awards with a total of £920,275.

MOD Ministers and Chiefs of Staff participated in the 65th anniversary events in Normandy at the invitation of the Royal British Legion and Normandy Veterans' Association. There was significant representation by our armed forces with over 1,000 participating in events across Normandy and standing alongside veterans. MOD is also discussing with Westminster Abbey the possibility of a commemoration service in the autumn as requested by the Normandy Veterans Association.

### Korean War: Anniversaries

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans he expects to attend the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the ceasefire in the Korean War on 27 July 2010; and if he will make arrangements to facilitate their attendance through *(a)* financial support and *(b)* other means. [279656]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The end of the Korean war is due to be commemorated in 2013, the 60th anniversary of the armistice. It is too early to say how this anniversary might be officially marked or indeed how many might attend. My officials have been in contact with the Korean Veterans Association who are content that the commemorations should take place in 2013.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 14 April 2009 on Trident (reference: MC01616/2009). [279917]

**Bill Rammell:** My predecessor replied to the hon. Member on 8 May 2009.

### Military Aircraft

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual usage hours for (i) TriStar and (ii) VC10 aircraft there were in each year since 2003. [280067]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** For figures covering financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces, on the 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1748W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox). The planned and actual flying hours for 2008-09 are shown in the following table:

| | *2008-09* |
|---|---|
| *Tristar* | |
| Planned | 11,561 |
| Actual | 8,966 |
| *VC10* | |
| Planned | 9,254 |
| Actual | 8,952 |

### Navistar Defence Husky

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the Navistar Defence Husky was selected for the Tactical Support Vehicle: Medium requirement; and what other tenders for the contract for that requirement were received. [279646]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Navistar Defence vehicle which forms the base for Husky was selected for the Tactical Support Vehicle (TSV) Medium requirement because it met or exceeded all of the key user requirements, and the very demanding delivery schedule, while also providing the best overall value for money.

11 companies returned expressions of interest, of which six were within the scope of the TSV Medium. The six expressions of interest were from Iveco, Mercedes-Benz, Navistar Defence, Krauss-Maffei Wegmann, Renault Trucks Defense and Penman Engineering Ltd.

### Navy: Gibraltar

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy warships are based in UK waters off Gibraltar. [279046]

**Bill Rammell:** Two Royal Navy warships, HMS Sabre and HMS Scimitar, are based in Gibraltar. These are 16-metre fast patrol launches and form the Gibraltar Squadron.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days on average *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies took to pay an invoice in each month since November 2008. [279787]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table shows the average number of working days taken to pay an invoice by the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland (PPS), and its agencies in each month since November 2008.

*Average number of working days taken to pay an invoice*

| | *NIO Core (inc. PPS)* | *NI Prison Service* | *Forensic Science NI* | *Compensation Agency* | *Youth Justice Agency* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| November 2008 | 11.5 | 14.2 | 22 | 9 | 10.5 |
| December 2008 | 10.0 | 10.9 | 20 | 7 | 10.1 |
| January 2009 | 12.2 | 11.2 | 18 | 7 | 12.4 |
| February 2009 | 9.8 | 10.0 | 13 | 6 | 9.3 |
| March 2009 | 9.7 | 13.6 | 13 | 5 | 11.6 |
| April 2009 | 8.8 | 11.4 | 15 | 6 | 11.5 |
| May 2009 | 8.2 | 9.9 | 15 | 7 | 9.7 |

### Police Service of Northern Ireland

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officers who *(a)* retired and *(b)* resigned from the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last three years retained a personal protection weapon. [280027]

**Paul Goggins:** That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the right hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Prisoners: Basic Skills

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated *(a)* numeracy and *(b)* literacy rate was among prisoners in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [277259]

**Paul Goggins:** The following tables provide a breakdown of the assessed levels of numeracy and literacy rates among prisoners in Northern Ireland in each of the last five financial years and the current financial year up to 31 May.

*Numeracy*

| *Financial year* | *Below entry level* | *Entry Level 1* | *Entry level 2* | *Entry level 3* | *Level 1 plus above* | *Total number of assessments* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 110 | 118 | 331 | 475 | 389 | 1,423 |
| 2005-06 | 112 | 131 | 352 | 513 | 378 | 1,486 |
| 2006-07 | 118 | 73 | 273 | 588 | 460 | 1,512 |
| 2007-08 | 118 | 74 | 285 | 581 | 508 | 1,566 |
| 2008-09 | 118 | 96 | 278 | 607 | 514 | 1,613 |
| 1 April 2009-31 May 2009 | 29 | 31 | 95 | 199 | 229 | 583 |

*Literacy*

| *Financial year* | *Below entry level* | *Entry Level 1* | *Entry level 2* | *Entry level 3* | *Level 1 plus above* | *Total number of assessments* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 76 | 97 | 236 | 523 | 489 | 1,421 |
| 2005-06 | 90 | 75 | 235 | 590 | 490 | 1,480 |
| 2006-07 | 116 | 49 | 202 | 621 | 520 | 1,508 |
| 2007-08 | 103 | 44 | 200 | 602 | 609 | 1,558 |
| 2008-09 | 102 | 61 | 228 | 614 | 614 | 1,619 |
| 1 April 2009-31 May 2009 | 21 | 26 | 77 | 179 | 274 | 577 |

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Plants

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on pot plants in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [280021]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office have incurred no expenditure on pot plants in either 2007-08 or 2008-09.

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons data collected in in-flight flight recorders are not transmitted in real time to *(a)* the Civil Aviation Authority and *(b)* air traffic control regulators; and what research has been undertaken into encryption of such data. [279352]

**Paul Clark:** Cockpit voice recordings are not transmitted in real time because of the need to ensure data security. There is a potential for unscrupulous surveillance and interventions, which are capable of compromising the data. There is currently no internationally accepted method available for the encryption of these recordings, although industry-led research is under way.

The limiting factors for the transmission of flight data recordings are the technical and financial challenge of fitting appropriate equipment to the aircraft and the development of the necessary satellite bandwidth.

### Aviation: Safety

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department issued any guidance in relation to A330 aircraft following the warning by the US Federal Aviation Administration in 2001 that unreliable air speed may be caused by a random destruction or obstructed pitots in relation to that aircraft. [279135]

**Paul Clark:** Civil aviation safety in the UK is regulated by independent aviation safety regulators: the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). As such the Department for Transport does not itself issue guidance. In July 2001, the Federal Aviation Administration issued an Airworthiness Directive (AD) related to a potential unsafe condition associated with unreliable airspeed indication. The AD was issued in order to mandate action for Airbus A330 aircraft registered in the US, which had already been taken in Europe by France as the State of Design for that aircraft. The French Directorate General of Civil Aviation recognised a potential safety problem and issued two ADs on the Airbus A330 in February 2001 The UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) made the ADs mandatory in the UK at that time.

### Bus Services: Standards

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many bus drivers were examined under the driver quality monitoring scheme in 2008-09; and how many of them were found to be unacceptable with *(a)* serious faults and *(b)* dangerous faults. [279529]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The following table shows the number of driver quality monitoring (DQM) assessments conducted by the Driving Standards Agency in 2008-09.

*2008-09*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Total DQM assessments | 9,876 |
| Unacceptable serious faults | 2,382 |
| Unacceptable dangerous faults | 85 |

Assessment data is reported back to the client on the next day for potential remedial action. For assessments recording dangerous faults, the bus company is notified on the day of the assessment. In all cases, the client is responsible for any further action.

### Departmental Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278750]

**Chris Mole:** There have been fewer than five occurrences of (i) disciplinary action or (ii) dismissal for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data during the last 12 months. As there have been less than five such occurrences, further information is withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

Information is a key asset to government, and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of Her Majesty's Government. The Security Policy Framework and the Data Handling Report produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

### Departmental Exhaust Emissions

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from official journeys made by his Department's employees in the last five years. [279580]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has collected data on carbon dioxide emissions resulting from road, rail and air travel since 2005.

The volume of carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions arising from official journeys is estimated as follows:

2005-06: 11.6 million tonnes of $CO_2$

2006-07: 11.2 million tonnes of $CO_2$

2007-08: 11.1 million tonnes of $CO_2$

The figures are calculated from Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) returns. SOGE for 2008-09 is due for completion by 31 July 2009, so carbon emission figures for that year will be calculated by September.

### Departmental Taxis

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what expenditure his Department incurred on taxis in each of the last two years. [278229]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport (central) and three of its agencies, Driving Standards Agency, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and Vehicle Certification Agency spent the amounts in the following table on taxis in the last two years.

£

| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|
| DfT(c) | 143,796 | 137,968 |
| DSA | 20,556 | 26,686 |
| DVLA | 47,196 | 32,041 |
| VCA | 2,078 | 3,562 |

The Department's other four agencies, Government Car and Despatch Agency, Highways Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Vehicle Operator Services Agency do not record taxi fares separately from other travel costs and could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

### Driving Tests: Motorcycles

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of sites for Module One motorcycle tests; and if he will make a statement. [279300]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The number of sites providing the Module One (Off Road) Motorcycle Test is detailed in the following table:

| *Site Category* | *Number of Sites* |
|---|---|
| Multi-Purpose Test Centres (MPTC) | 44 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency sites (weekend testing only) | 16 |
| Casual hire sites | 6 |
| Total | 66 |

This means that 88 per cent. of the population are within 45 minutes travelling time or 20 miles of an off-road facility. The Driving Standards Agency is continuing to search for additional sites to further improve coverage.

### Driving: Licensing

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions in each of the last three years for which information is available GPs or other medical practitioners have disclosed information to the medical adviser of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency about licence holders of *(a)* passenger service vehicles, *(b)* large goods vehicles and *(c)* cars and other light vehicles. [279292]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]*: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency seeks disclosure of medical reports from GPs and consultants where a driver has notified a medical condition that may affect their ability to drive. The number of such reports received during the last year are shown as follows categorised as ordinary (car/bike) and vocational (lorry/bus) entitlement.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Ordinary | 110,232 |
| Vocational | 18,661 |

### Heathrow Airport

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the Project Heathrow project delivery and risk reports, what level of probability his Department assigns to *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high risk classifications in respect of (i) inherent and (ii) residual risk likelihood assessments; and if he will make a statement. [278974]

**Paul Clark:** The probability of the risks, both inherent and residual, identified in the Heathrow Project risk registers was a matter of judgment for the project manager, subject to review by the Project Board. It does not relate to a specific, quantifiable probability.

A risk register represents a snapshot of a project at a given point through the eyes of one of its members and is only one of a number of tools used to assist effective project management.

### Local Government: Parking

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which local authorities have expressed an interest in levying workplace parking charges to date. [278365]

**Mr. Khan:** The Transport Committee Report on Urban Charging Schemes in 2003—ISBN 0215008081 at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200203/cmselect/cmtran/390/39005.htm

listed the 35 local authorities who initially expressed an interest in using powers under the Transport Act 2000 to introduce road user charging or workplace parking levy. Since then, only one local authority, Nottingham city council, has approached the Department for Transport with proposals for a scheme.

A scheme was considered for the northern fringe of Bristol by the West of England local authorities as part of their TIF proposals, but they decided not to pursue it.

Devon county council has expressed an interest in considering a workplace parking levy in the context of its Local Transport Plan and as part of a bid to the Department for funding to investigate the possibility of introducing demand management measures. They have not yet provided developed proposals.

### M25

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what change was made to the cost-benefit ratio for the M25 design, build, finance and operate widening project following each increase in the cost of the project. [278625]

**Chris Mole:** A benefit cost ratio (BCR) of monetised impacts was determined for each of the two widening schemes (between Junctions 16 to 23, and Junctions 27 to 30) included within the M25 design, build, finance and operate contract.

The following table summarises the BCR figures at each ministerial approval stage. The method for calculating the BCR figures changed for scheme appraisals carried out since 2005-06 and the targeted programme of improvements figures are therefore not directly comparable with the later approvals.

| | *Benefit cost ratio* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Junction 16 to 23* | *Junction 27 to 30* |
| Ministerial approval at TPI entry in 2004 | 5.5 | 2.4 |
| Ministerial approval to increased costs for widening—27 July 2007 | 4.2 | 2.4 |
| Ministerial approval to maximum expected cost for M25 DBFO contract—1 April 2009 | 3.5 | 2.0 |

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate was made of the cost of the proposed M25 widening scheme when *(a)* the decision was made to let the contract for that scheme through a private finance initiative scheme and *(b)* the contract for the widening scheme was signed off. [279348]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]*: The approved estimate for widening the M25 between Junctions 16 and 23, and between Junctions 27 and 30 was £0.90 billion at the time these projects entered the Targeted Programme of Improvements in 2004.

The capital cost of these widening schemes was re-estimated and approved at £1.28 billion in July 2007. At this stage it had been agreed that the widening of the M25 between Junctions 16-23 and Junctions 27-30 schemes would be procured through the M25 design, build, finance and operate (DBFO) contract. The estimates did not include the cost of financing via the private finance initiative route.

The contract was awarded to Connect Plus on 20 May 2009 with total capital costs for the two widening sections of £1.02 billion. This represents the fixed price from Connect Plus for development and construction of the two sections being widened but excludes the cost of financing.

### Railways: Finance

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much capital funding the Government has allocated to rail travel in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [279308]

**Chris Mole:** The information is not available in the form requested. A breakdown of annual expenditure by mode and region is available in the Department for Transport Annual Report. Details of total historic expenditure are available in National Rail Trends which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation. Copies of these documents are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Roads: Accidents

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accident fatalities there have been in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport in each of the last 10 years. [279757]

**Paul Clark:** The number of fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport in each of the last 10 years is given in the following table.

*Number of fatalities*

| | *Tameside* | *Stockport* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 4 | 14 |
| 1999 | 6 | 9 |
| 2000 | 5 | 5 |
| 2001 | 5 | 9 |
| 2002 | 4 | 6 |
| 2003 | 11 | 11 |
| 2004 | 2 | 3 |
| 2005 | 6 | 9 |
| 2006 | 4 | 4 |
| 2007 | 11 | 9 |

The 2008 road casualty statistics will be available on 25 June 2009.

### Royal Family: Travel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 396W, on transport: Royal Family, if he will specify that *(a)* scheduled flights and *(b)* timetabled railway services should be used for journeys by members of the Royal Family funded from his Department's budget. [279648]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* Decisions on air and rail travel arrangements for Members of the Royal Family are taken by the Royal Travel Office and Royal Household on a case-by-case basis as they must be judged on consideration of safety and security requirements, obtaining the best value for money, time-efficiency, the visit requirements, the avoidance of disruption to the public, the environment, and the appropriateness for the visit in question.

### Speed Limits: Chideock

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to announce his Department's decision on the cases of people wrongly notified of speeding offences as a result of the malfunctioning of the speed camera on the westbound A35 at Chideock, Dorset. [278226]

**Chris Mole:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Plymouth, Devonport (Alison Seabeck) on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 486W.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Audit Commission: Bank Services

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission had on deposit in each Icelandic bank when each account was frozen; and how much of each deposit remains unrecovered. [279848]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, 15 June 2009:*

The Audit Commission had deposits with two Icelandic banks, £5m with Heritable and £5m with Landsbanki when each account was frozen. As at 11 June 2009, no monies have been recovered from either bank.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

### Business Improvement Districts

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an impact assessment has been commissioned in respect of the proposed extension to property owners of the scope of business improvement districts. [280037]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Subject to the Business Rate Supplements (BRS) Bill receiving Royal Assent, the Government intend to conduct an impact assessment of the inclusion of property owners in Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in those areas where a BRS is introduced or already in place. It is envisaged that the assessment will be published alongside a consultation paper on the detailed arrangements needed for BRS-BIDs that will be set out in secondary legislation.

### Commission on Architecture and the Built Environment

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Housing Corporation provided to the Commission on Architecture and the Built Environment in the last 24 months before the corporation's merger with English Partnerships; for what purposes; and at what cost. [280031]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1000-01W.

### Council Housing: Rents

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to assist local councils to reduce the levels of rent charged to their tenants. [278227]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Following the written statement made by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 71-72WS, we have consulted on and issued an Amending Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Determination for 2009-10 on 20 May. This will provide

additional subsidy of around £175 million to compensate those councils in England that reduce their rent increases in accordance the Government's decision to offer local authorities a reduction in the 2009-10 national average guideline rent increase from 6.2 per cent. to 3.1 per cent. Local authorities are responsible for making decisions on the rent levels they apply to their social home tenancies.

### Council Housing: Waiting Lists

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are on a local authority housing waiting list in Stockport; and how many were on such a list in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 1999. [279755]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information is available on numbers of households rather than people. The number of households registered on local authority housing waiting lists in each local authority, as at 1 April each year from 1997 to 2008, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

### Councillors

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 423-4W, on councillors, for what reasons the Audit Commission decided to collect data on all local councillors during its next scheduled exercise; and what assessment the Audit Commission made of the level of risk of fraud involving elected members prior to that decision. [280013]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 15 June 2009:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me for reply.

Data on local councillors has been collected since 1998. During each cycle of the National Fraud Initiative, local authorities have been required to submit payroll data that includes salaries, wages and members allowances.

Prior to 1998 and based on known frauds reported by audited bodies, pilot exercises were run to determine the value of data matching payroll within NFI. The pilot data was used to provide anomalies to audited bodies and as a result of their investigations they detected significant numbers of payroll and housing benefit frauds by public sector employees and elected members. Consequently payroll became a core element of the data used in NFI. The long standing principle of running pilots to assess the fraud risk in a dataset is enshrined in the Commission's Code of Data Matching Practice laid before Parliament in July 2008.

Individual case studies and the total of frauds detected have been reported in the NFI national reports published at the end of each exercise and many have been covered by local and national media particularly where custodial sentences have resulted. Many local authorities have rightly adopted a zero tolerance approach to fraud and it is important that this is as robust with staff and elected members as it is with members of the public.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

### Departmental Film

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many videos his Department has uploaded to YouTube since July 2007; and what policy his Department has on the use of *(a)* YouTube and *(b)* other online media. [279943]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Communities and Local Government has published 52 videos on its YouTube channel since July 2008, when the channel launched. The Department decides on a case-by-case basis whether YouTube or other online media channels are used for communications purposes.

### Departmental Procurement

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departmental procurement, if he will place in the Library a copy of the list of names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods or services to his Department in 2008-09. [279798]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The information that has been requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279404]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** None.

### Energy Performance Certificates

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued on the provision of energy performance certificates in *(a)* hard and *(b)* electronic copy. [277033]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The principal guidance on the provision of energy performance certificates published by my Department is as follows:

Improving the energy efficiency of our buildings: A guide to energy performance certificates for the construction, sale and let of non-dwellings;

Improving the energy efficiency of our buildings, Local weights and measures guidance for Energy Certificates and air-conditioning inspections for buildings;

Improving the energy efficiency of our buildings, A guide to Display Energy Certificates and advisory reports for public buildings;

Improving the energy efficiency of our buildings, an overview of Energy Certificates and Air Conditioning inspections for buildings;

Energy performance certificates for dwellings in the social and private rented sectors;

Energy performance certificates for dwellings in the social and private rented sectors, A guide for landlords.

All of these publications are only available online. There is a considerable list of supporting guidance and other documentation that have been published by my Department in support of energy performance certificates and related documents. A copy of this list has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Homebuy Scheme

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Homebuy agents are permitted to bring forward expected funding from one financial year into another under the terms of their contracts with his Department. [276739]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Homebuy Agents cannot bring forward funding from one financial year to another under the terms of their contract with the Homes and Communities Agency.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many registered Homebuy agents there are in each region. [276746]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Homebuy Agents operating in each region are as follows:

North East—Time2Buy, Isos Group

North West—HomesHub, Riverside, Plumlife

Yorkshire and Humberside—My4walls, Plumlife

West Midlands—Orbit

East Midlands—East Midlands Housing

East—Orbit, Moat, Lea Valley Homes

South East—Moat, Catalyst, Swaythling Housing

South West—Home2own

London—Metropolitan Housing Group/Housing Options, Tower Homes.

### Homes and Communities Agency: Olympic Games 2012

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funds the Homes and Communities Agency has allocated to the development of the Olympic village for the London 2012 Olympic Games; and whether the sums allocated have been amended since the agency first agreed to provide funding for the village. [276914]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In April 2008 an allocation for the Olympic Village site of £85.9 million funding was agreed by the Department.

In February 2009 the London Board of the Homes and Communities Agency agreed additional funding for affordable housing up to a total cap of £110 million and provided that the total amount of affordable housing was no more than 50 per cent. of the residential on the Olympic Village.

Following the finalisation of the negotiation of the additional affordable housing units and a change in the mix of units agreed in the original proposal through the planning obligation, a total of £110 million in social housing grant was agreed. (£85.8 million for the units originally proposed plus £24.2 million for the additional units).

### Housing

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities operate choice-based housing allocation schemes. [278674]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** As at April 2009 the Choice Based Lettings housing allocations schemes were being operated in 211 local authorities in England.

### Housing Revenue Accounts

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority allocated for its Housing Revenue Account for *(a)* maintenance, *(b)* management, *(c)* Decent Homes, *(d)* major repairs, *(e)* arm's length management organisations, *(f)* private sector renewal and *(g)* subsidy payments in each of the last five years. [278607]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Communities and Local Government does not hold information about allocations made by local authorities for the categories requested.

### Housing: Carbon Emissions

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the definition of zero carbon for homes and non-domestic properties; and if he will make a statement. [277014]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department is working closely with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on the development of our policies on zero carbon homes and non-domestic buildings. DECC is represented at ministerial level on the 2016 task force, which is jointly chaired by the Minister for Housing and Planning and the Executive Chairman of the Home Builders Federation and which brings together key stakeholders at senior level to oversee development and implementation of the zero carbon homes policy.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Homebuy homes designated in each Homebuy scheme were available in *(a)* Welwyn Hatfield and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last 12 months. [276376]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We do not hold centrally the number of homes available for Open Market Homebuy in Welwyn Hatfield and Hertfordshire in each of the last 12 months. This scheme enables purchasers to buy any property on the open market with the help of an equity loan. Ownhome and My Choice Homebuy are subsets of Open Market Homebuy.

Again for Homebuy Direct we do not centrally collect the number of homes available to purchase at local authority level.

The number of completed homes each month for New Build Homebuy for Welwyn Hatfield and Hertfordshire has been provided in the following table. The total for Hertfordshire includes those homes completed

within Welwyn Hatfield. In each month there are likely to be more homes available than just those newly completed, as some homes can take a few months to sell and others come back on the market as occupants change.

| | *Welwyn Hatfield* | *Hertfordshire total* |
|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | |
| April | 0 | 0 |
| May | 0 | 1 |
| June | 6 | 6 |
| July | 0 | 12 |
| August | 0 | 0 |
| September | 0 | 21 |
| October | 0 | 7 |
| November | 0 | 2 |
| December | 28 | 39 |
| *2009* | | |
| January | 0 | 0 |
| February | 0 | 9 |
| March | 5 | 31 |
| Total | 39 | 128 |

*Source:*
Homes and Communities Agency.

For Rent to Homebuy the following table shows the number of completions in each month for Welwyn Hatfield and Hertfordshire. The total for Hertfordshire includes those homes completed within Welwyn Hatfield. In each month there are likely to be more homes available than just those newly completed, as some homes can take a short time to rent.

| | *Welwyn Hatfield* | *Hertfordshire total* |
|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | |
| April | 0 | 0 |
| May | 0 | 0 |
| June | 0 | 0 |
| July | 0 | 0 |
| August | 0 | 0 |
| September | 0 | 0 |
| October | 0 | 0 |
| November | 0 | 0 |
| December | 0 | 0 |
| *2009* | | |
| January | 0 | 0 |
| February | 0 | 0 |
| March | 0 | 28 |
| Total | 0 | 28 |

*Source:*
Homes and Communities Agency.

We do not hold centrally data on the number of properties on which Social Homebuy is offered by landlords participating in the scheme.

Throughout this answer Hertfordshire has been interpreted as covering the following local authorities: Broxbourne, Dacorum, East Hertfordshire, Hertsmere, North Hertfordshire, St. Albans, Stevenage, Three Rivers, Watford and Welwyn Hatfield.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn, Hatfield of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 448-9W, on housing: low incomes, how many households have moved into dwellings under the New Build Homebuy Scheme to date. [276924]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The following table shows the number of initial sales recorded through the New Build Homebuy scheme since 1997-98, the earliest date for which New Build Homebuy is separately identified.

| | *New Build Homebuy initial sales* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 4,020 |
| 1998-99 | 4,270 |
| 1999-2000 | 3,740 |
| 2000-01 | 3,190 |
| 2001-02 | 3,370 |
| 2002-03 | 3,780 |
| 2003-04 | 4,200 |
| 2004-05 | 5,820 |
| 2005-06 | 7,540 |
| 2006-07 | 10,340 |
| 2007-08 | 11,490 |

*Source:*
Continuous Recording (CORE) returns to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) from registered social landlords

It has been assumed that households responsible for initial sales of New Build Homebuy will take up residence.

The figures cover the number of initial sales recorded on CORE, which is assumed to be the same number as the number of households moving into dwellings.

CORE sales figures are only provided by RSLs with at least 250 units or bedspaces. RSLs with less units can complete the form, but it is not compulsory, so these figures may be under recording the number of New Build Homebuy sales.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 749W, on Homebuy schemes, what the cost of services related to the design of Homebuy brand logos was in each of the last three years. [279783]

**John Healey:** The cost of services related to the design of the Homebuy brand logo in the last financial year was £21,090 excluding VAT. The Department incurred no such costs in the previous years requested.

## Local Government Finance

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1119W, on local government finance, for what reasons some local authorities received no funding in the most recent round of the local authority business growth incentive scheme. [279890]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Local authorities qualified for funding under the local authorities business growth incentives (LABGI) scheme when their business growth exceeded historic growth levels. When business growth did not exceed these levels, local authorities received no funding.

### Non-Domestic Rates

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* large and *(b)* small properties were assessed as having capped rises in business rates bills under a fifth year of transitional relief in 2009-10 as part of the analysis undertaken for Department's August 2004 National Non-Domestic Rates Transitional Arrangements Consultation; and what estimate was made under that analysis of the external revenue implications of a fifth year of transition. [279782]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The consultation 'NNDR transitional arrangements' did not include options for a five-year scheme and therefore no such assessment was made.

### Parks: Finance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated for parks in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [279286]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Public parks and green spaces are primarily funded through revenue support grant provided to local authorities by Communities and Local Government. Central Government does not prescribe how much should be spent by each local authority on their open spaces; this is a matter for them to determine in line with local priorities.

Information is not collected by central Government on the number of parks in a local authority area or region.

### Parks: Merseyside

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding his Department allocated for parks in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997; [278896]

(2) how many parks in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside are receiving funding from his Department in 2009-10. [278897]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Public parks and green spaces are primarily funded through revenue support grant provided to local authorities by Communities and Local Government. Central Government does not prescribe how much should be spent by each local authority on their open spaces; this is a matter for them to determine in line with local priorities.

Information is not collected by central Government on the number of parks in a local authority area or region.

### Recreation Spaces: East of England

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding his Department allocated for parks in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; [278590]

(2) how many parks are receiving funding from his Department in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England in 2009-10. [278592]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Public parks and green spaces are primarily funded through revenue support grant provided by Communities and Local Government. Central Government does not prescribe how much should be spent by each local authority on their open spaces; this is a matter for them to determine in line with local priorities.

Information is not collected by central Government on the number of parks in a local authority area or region.

### Regeneration: Coastal Areas

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 56-7W, on the coastal town network, on what dates the coastal towns network has met since October 2008. [279915]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Coastal Towns Network, which is led by the South East England Development Agency, has met twice since October 2008, on 22 January 2009 and 2 April 2009, with the next meeting planned for 28 July 2009.

### Sheltered Housing

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the operation of (i) full-time and (ii) floating support managers in sheltered housing schemes. [279606]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department has not commissioned any research specific to the operation of full-time and floating support managers in sheltered housing schemes.

However, in September 2006 Civis consultants were commissioned to undertake a literature and current practice review of floating support to better understand the effectiveness of floating support services, and the balance needed between floating support and accommodation-based services in order to improve service delivery and choice and control for service users.

### Town and Planning Association: Eco-Towns

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments his Department has made to the Town and Planning Association for work on eco-towns. [276919]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The details of payments and committed funding to the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) in relation to their work on eco-towns was set out in my answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 108W. I can now confirm that payments to the TCPA in 2008-09 totalled £203,500. Funding to support the TCPA's work on eco-towns for 2009-10 is currently being agreed.

### Trees

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated for the preservation of trees in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [279285]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Local planning authorities are responsible for making and administering tree preservation orders. Funding for this function is contained in the revenue support grant and is not ring-fenced. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### World Heritage Sites: Planning Permission

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the results of the consultation on the Planning Circular on the Protection of World Heritage Sites. [279115]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We are aiming to publish both the summary of consultation responses, and the new Planning Circular, in July 2009.

## OLYMPICS

### Government Olympic Executive: Consultants

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much the Government Olympic Executive spent on consultants in each year since 2005. [277101]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The Government Olympic Executive's (GOE) expenditure on consultancy costs for the financial years since 2005-06 is:

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 666 |
| 2006-07 | 721 |
| 2007-08 | 432 |
| 2008-09[1] | 331 |

[1] Provisional outturn.

These figures include expenditure by the GOE's predecessor, the Olympic Games Unit. All figures include VAT (where appropriate).

GOE is the only organisation overseeing the entire Olympic project, integrating the work of multiple delivery bodies, and ensuring the Games is delivered within the £9.3 billion public sector funding provision. GOE's purchase of consultancy services is a planned response to the need to deliver the Government's commitments and guarantees. The consultants have provided valuable short-term support, skills and expertise which has enabled GOE to, among other things:

identify how the Games will act as a catalyst for the regeneration of the East End with investment in Stratford and the Lower Lea Valley, building on the investment in neighbourhood renewal already being delivered by the Government, Mayor of London and the host boroughs themselves;

develop and publish a clear Legacy Action Plan;

develop and implement the most effective governance structures and organisations, such as the Olympic Park Legacy Company, to ensure that physical and sporting legacy is delivered;

implement more effective and economic operational structures to support the Olympic Board, and ensure that the necessary assurance process are in place;

develop the essential cross-cutting work-streams to ensure that all elements of the programme are properly integrated so avoiding duplication of effort, late and costly changes to the design and construction of facilities and services; and

undertake essential tracking research on public attitudes to the Olympics which has informed the legacy ambitions; added to our understanding of people's priorities around London 2012 and shown us how people are becoming involved in the numerous opportunities for London and the UK.

### Government Olympic Executive: Employment Tribunals Service

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many actions under employment law have been brought against the Government Olympic Executive in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by the Government Olympic Executive at an employment tribunal. [277422]

**Tessa Jowell:** No actions under employment law have been brought against the Government Olympic Executive in the last three years.

### Olympic Games 2012: Construction

**Mr. Laxton:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the Olympic Delivery Authority requires contractors to use water-borne means of transport to transport material to and from the Olympic site; and if she will make a statement. [277987]

**Tessa Jowell:** While there is no specific requirement in place, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is encouraging all contractors to use the waterways to transport materials. The ODA's work to open up navigable waterways will actively encourage contractors to employ sustainable transport methods at every opportunity. Contractors are embracing this challenge; for example, Team Stadium (the consortium constructing the Olympic Stadium) are building offloading facilities near the stadium to enable movement of materials by water. Two of the ODA's other tier one contractors, Veolia and Aggregate Industries, have also committed to using the waterways to transport materials in and waste out. Veolia, the site waste management contractor, is expected to have the first barge carrying waste out of the park at the end of June 2009, following the opening of Three Mills Lock (formerly known as Prescott Lock) this month.

**Mr. Laxton:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what contracts have been signed with the Olympic Delivery Authority to enable water-borne freight to be transported to and from the Olympic site. [277988]

**Tessa Jowell:** Water-borne freight can access the Olympic Park via several of the waterways which run next to and through the Olympic Park.

The Lea Navigation canal, which runs along the western perimeter of the site, already enables 100 tonne barges to access the park. Access to Waterworks River (which runs through the centre of the Park) has been facilitated by investment in a new lock at Three Mills (formerly known as Prescott Lock). This lock will enable

the passage of 350 tonne barges to the Olympic Park wharf located opposite the aquatics centre. Dredging has been undertaken along Waterworks River to ensure barges can reach the new wharf.

The construction of Three Mills lock was managed by British Waterways with funding contributions from the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), Transport for London, Department for Transport, London Development Agency and the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation. Dredging was undertaken by British Waterways. The new wharf along Waterworks River has been constructed by the ODA's tier one contractor, Volker Highways.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what criteria will apply to the award of contracts for landscaping of the London 2012 Olympic main site; and if she will make a statement. [279309]

**Tessa Jowell:** Contracts for landscaping of the London 2012 Olympic Park are the responsibility of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and are awarded following a competitive tendering process. The authority is a public body whose procurements are subject to the public contracts regulations.

The ODA, in support of its overarching commitment to value and quality, sets a number of requirements, including demonstration of quality and functionality, equality and diversity, design and accessibility, and sustainability, as part of the evaluation criteria used to award contracts. In addition to this core criteria, bespoke commercial and technical conditions are set as appropriate for each of the individual contracts within the Landscape and Public Realm project.

Further detail on ODA procurement policy and principles can be found in the ODA Procurement Policy (published March 2007) and the ODA Supplier Guide (published June 2008).

Over the next three years, there will be a number of opportunities available to landscaping contractors to supply the thousands of young woodland trees, shrubs and other plants needed to complement those trees and plants already secured for a spectacular and sustainable Olympic Park in both games-time and legacy.

### Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympics *(a)* cross country, *(b)* equestrian and *(c)* modern pentathlon events at Greenwich Park. [278654]

**Tessa Jowell:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic games at existing venues. The direct costs associated with staging the events at existing venues come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example, in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. However, these costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

### Olympic Games 2012: Finance

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics for what reasons the cost of the other Olympic Park venues has fallen from £446 million to £337 million in her May 2009 London 2012 Quarterly Economic Report compared with the previous report. [279838]

**Tessa Jowell:** The main reason for the reduction of £109 million is that £94 million, relating to the Velopark project budget, has been moved from the 'other Olympic Park Venues' grouping and reported as a separate item. Showing project budgets separately, once they are not commercially sensitive, is part of our commitment to transparent reporting of costs relating to the Olympic Programme.

The remainder of this reduction is the result of savings achieved on the programme through a combination of procurement, VAT and inflation savings.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics for what reasons Stratford City Land and Infrastructure and Stratford City Receipt are show as separate entries in her May 2009 London 2012 Quarterly Economic Report. [279839]

**Tessa Jowell:** Prior to the publication of the London 2012 Quarterly Economic Report, the budgets for the Olympic Village and IBC/MPC had been reported as a single aggregate figure. However, with the reduction in commercial sensitivities following the award of contract for the IBC/MPC, coupled with the resolution of funding issues for the Olympic Village, this figure has now been broken down to reflect the budget for each individual project.

Where possible—as with the separate entries for Stratford City Land and Infrastructure and Stratford City Receipts—budget breakdowns will be provided, wherever commercial sensitivities allow, as part of our commitment to open and transparent reporting.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Culture and Sport Evidence Programme

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the budget for the Culture and Sport Evidence Programme has been spent. [279846]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Up to the end of May 2009, £351,000 of the budget for the Culture and Sport Evidence Programme had been spent. This represents 20 per cent. of the total budget for this three-year programme.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of progress on the Culture and Sport Evidence Programme; and if he will make a statement. [279847]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Culture and Sport Evidence Programme (CASE) is progressing well. We have undertaken (i) a fundamental review of published research and data on engagement in culture and sport, (ii) an assessment of research needs at a regional and local level and completed (iii) a review of asset data across the CASE-member bodies and (iv) developed shortened 'Taking Part'-style questions for the 'Understanding Society' longitudinal study, all within the first six months of CASE activity.

### Departmental Reviews

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275983]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication Public Bodies. Copies of Public Bodies 2008 are available in the Libraries of the House. Detailed information on ad hoc advisory bodies is available in the Department's own 'Public Bodies 2008' Report, which is available on our website:

www.culture.gov.uk

Information about reviews commissioned over the last five years and their costs is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Gaming Machines: Taxation

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effect that the introduction of a gross profit tax to replace the amusement machine licence duty system would have on implementation of new stakes and prize levels for Category C and D machines. [279744]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** New stake and prize levels for category C and D gaming machines were implemented on 10 June 2009. The Government are yet to consult on any proposals regarding the future of gaming machine taxation and will take into account all the views expressed by the industry during the consultation before deciding how to proceed.

### Tourism: Inland Waterways

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will encourage English tourism leaders to promote holidaying on waterways; and if he will make a statement. [276525]

**Barbara Follett:** VisitEngland is England's new tourism body, which works with key stakeholders at national, regional and local levels to create and lead on the delivery of a national tourism strategy, optimising marketing investment and developing the visitor experience across England.

VisitEngland is promoting waterways on their website:

www.enjoyengland.com

which has many links to British Waterways' leisure site:

www.waterscape.com

and narrow boating is part of a new VisitEngland advertising campaign called, "enjoy every minute; enjoy England", this includes a television advertisement which started airing on 18 May 2009 on ITV1.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to monitor the safety of asylum seekers returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo. [278005]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* The UK Border Agency only enforces the return of individuals to the Democratic Republic of Congo whom we, and the courts, are satisfied are not in need of protection and who do not elect to leave voluntarily.

The Court of Appeal's decision in December 2008 upheld the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal's finding that failed asylum seekers are not at risk on return to the Democratic Republic of Congo simply because they have claimed asylum.

The returns policy is kept under review for countries where we make returns. The UK Border Agency does not routinely monitor the treatment of individual unsuccessful asylum seekers once they are removed from the UK. However, we investigate, in partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, if specific allegations are made that any returnee, to any country, has experienced ill-treatment on return from the UK.

### Climate Change

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to adapt its activities to climate change in the last two years. [277639]

**Mr. Woolas:** All Departments are actively involved in the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which aims to help society adapt to climate change. The role of the programme is to develop and provide a comprehensive evidence base including adaptation tools, to raise awareness of the need to adapt, to measure success and to work across Government at all levels to embed adaptation. Further details about the Programme's work can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

As well as working together to tackle issues that affect all departments and their work, each Government Department is adapting to climate change in its own operations and policies.

Home Office has carried out a preliminary assessment of the business areas that may be affected by climate change. Initial findings are that migration, and crime and policing are the more likely areas of Home Office business to be affected. Home Office estates may also be affected. Our next step is to carry out more detailed assessments in each area, based on different climate change scenarios.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277721]

**Mr. Woolas:** It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings over the next three years. It has, however, been shown in the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change that timely and well-targeted climate adaptation measures will yield benefits in excess of their costs. The main rationale for investment to address climate risk will be to reduce the UK's vulnerability to longer-term climate change impacts.

The Government are undertaking a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Economic Analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament within three years of the Climate Change Act coming in to force.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the property searches in the home information pack procured in respect of the sale of 62 South Eaton Place were undertaken; and for how long that property has been on the market. [278360]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 160W. The local authority searches were dated 18 April 2008 and the water/drainage search was dated 16 April 2008.

### Departmental Drinking Water

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on water coolers in each year of the last five years. [278230]

**Mr. Woolas:** The requested information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental ICT

**John Thurso:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273555]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office operates a large-scale, multi-vendor, supply chain delivering a wide range of ICT categories.

The Home Office CIO, in line with all other Chief Information Officers (CIOs) on the CIO Council, has produced a "CIO Green ICT Roadmap" which we will be following to deliver against the 18 target improvement areas outlined in the Greening Government ICT Strategy including those aimed at reducing carbon emissions.

The CIOs and Chief Technology Officers (CTO) Council of the Cabinet Office have completed the CIO Green ICT Roadmap baselines for all of its CIOs including local government representatives and agencies.

The Home Office is directly represented on the CIO/CTO Council Green ICT Delivery Unit and is responsible for providing support to the development of the pan-government Greening Government ICT Strategy and leadership.

A full report of the CIO Council Green ICT Roadmaps will be made available and will feature the action plans of all Departments involved in the Council against the 18 steps. This will be included in a "one year on" Green ICT CIO report which will be issued by the Cabinet Office in July. The CIO/CTO Council Green ICT Delivery Unit will refresh its annual CIO key objectives against the latest developments in technology and advances in carbon measurement which will be circulated for comment to all CIOs and relevant Departments this summer.

As already reported to the Cabinet Office in the CIO Green ICT roadmap Home Office businesses are currently analysing, planning and implementing (where appropriate) the actions laid out in the Greening Government ICT Strategy. Our main ICT suppliers are being asked to provide low power consumption devices wherever applicable. We have initiated projects to configure our workstations to automatically power down after hours, to virtualise a significant proportion of our server estate and to implement thin client technology. We have reduced the amount of ICT devices and we are extending "smart working" which will also contribute to reduce the amount of ICT equipment on Home Office estate.

### Departmental Manpower

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* vetting and *(b)* security checks are undertaken in respect of staff working at the Abu Dhabi hub (i) prior to and (ii) during employment at the hub. [272748]

**Alan Johnson:** All entry clearance managers, entry clearance officers and other UK based staff are subjected to vetting before undertaking employment at the Abu Dhabi hub, this includes security checks.

Some locally employed staff of certain nationalities (British, EU and Australian) are vetted if they are working in sensitive (non decision making) areas of our business (e.g. visa embossing). All locally employed staff are subject to local police and reference checks. Integrity and business assurance checks (including audits of IT access and usage) are carried out by the Integrity Manager based in Abu Dhabi.

### Deportation: Children

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of accommodating British citizen children accompanying a foreign parent subject to a removal enforcement process in immigration removal centres in each of the last three years. [278388]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 275W, on deportation:

children, whether a race impact study has been undertaken of the expulsion from the UK of British citizen children accompanying a foreign parent subject to a removal enforcement process. [278387]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency does not expel, remove or deport people who hold British citizenship, including the British citizen children of foreign nationals subject to the removal process; consequently no race impact study has been conducted.

Arrangements can be made for a child with British citizenship to accompany a foreign national parent who is to be removed. However, this is strictly voluntary and dependent on the consent of all parties.

UK-born children who are not British citizens can be detained and removed under Immigration Act powers.

### Drugs: Crime

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the average street price of *(a)* cocaine and *(b)* heroin per gramme. [278428]

**Alan Johnson:** At 31 May 2009, the street prices were as follows:

*(a)* Cocaine: range of £20 to £80 per gram, most common price £40

*(b)* Heroin: range £25 to £100 per gram, most common prices £40 and £50.

### Entry Clearances

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects UK Border Agency Sponsor Licence application reference SPL336000079X to be determined. [278416]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 8 June 2009 providing an update.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1293W, on entry clearances: overseas students, whether the stipulated accreditation entities define the *(a)* method and *(b)* frequency with which assessments are undertaken. [277885]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 3 June 2009]:* The definition of the method and frequency of educational institutions' assessment of students is not the responsibility of the UK Border Agency's approved accreditation bodies.

The awarding bodies responsible for each recognised qualification set out the standards required to achieve the qualification, as well as the assessment methods that are appropriate for each particular qualification.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to expedite the issuing of visas for schoolchildren from overseas who wish to attend independent schools in the UK from September 2009. [278677]

**Mr. Woolas:** There are no special arrangements to expedite the issuing of visas for schoolchildren from overseas who wish to attend independent schools in the UK. We are committed to processing all visa applications in line with our Customers Service Standards, published on our website at:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

and which provide a prompt service.

### Firearms

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal firearms were seized as a result of operations by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in 2008-09. [278432]

**Alan Johnson:** In 2008-09, 72 illicit firearms were seized in the UK and 110 seized overseas as a result of operations by the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

### Identity and Passport Service: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the Identity and Passport Service were *(a)* investigated, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed for (i) making procedural errors and (ii) attempted fraud in the issuing of passports in each of the last five years. [276831]

**Alan Johnson:** The information requested is given in the tables.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

*Part I*

| *Procedural errors of passports* | *Investigated* | *Disciplined*[1] | *Dismissed* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 11 | 8 | 1 |
| 2007-08 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 2006-07 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2004-05 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

[1] Indicates an action other than a dismissal.

IPS interprets 'procedural errors' as any situation where the designated policies and procedures involved in the issuing, examining, interviewing etc of passports are not followed, regardless of the intent, i.e. honest mistake (human error) or with a criminal intent.

Even if a an officer makes an honest mistake a sanction will be applied i.e. further training, work under supervision etc. Consistent thwarting of policies and procedures would involve dismissal as the ultimate sanction.

*Part II*

The following figures relate to investigations undertaken by the IPS Internal Investigations Team, into allegations or suspicions of fraud in the issuing of passports, in the last five financial years:

| | *Investigated* | *Disciplined* | *Dismissed* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 23 | 7 | 4 |
| 2005-06 | 17 | 6 | 4 |
| 2006-07 | 14 | 5 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 14 | 3 | 1 |
| 2008-09 | 16 | 1 | 1 |

[1] A further 12 investigations are ongoing.

### Immigration Controls: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1295W, on immigration controls, whether the charge for each certificate of sponsorship will be made in advance of a submission of a certificate. [277883]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 3 June 2009]:* The payment for each certificate of sponsorship is taken before it can be released to a migrant to enable them to apply for a visa or further leave.

### Immigration: Gurkhas

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on Government policy in respect of Gurkha settlement rights. [274005]

**Mr. Woolas:** We were determined to get the guidance right to ensure that it is fair to all Gurkhas. Officials in the UK Border Agency consulted across Government.

The consultation process and the issues involved were complex. There was a need to consider issues such as how many former Gurkhas would want to settle, the impact on communities and affordability.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of retired Gurkhas expected to settle in the UK following the High Court decision of 30 September 2008. [274006]

**Mr. Woolas:** As a result of the High Court decision of 30 September 2008 the UK Border Agency issued revised guidance on 24 April 2009 for considering settlement applications from former Gurkhas. We estimated that approximately 10,000 former Gurkhas and their families would benefit from the new guidance and would be entitled to settle in the United Kingdom should they choose to do so. These estimates were based on an analysis of records held by the Ministry of Defence.

On 21 May 2009 the Home Secretary announced that any former Gurkha with more than four years service who had been discharged from the Brigade of Gurkhas before 1 July 1997 would be eligible for settlement in the UK. We estimate that 36,000 former Gurkhas are now eligible to apply to come to the United Kingdom although we believe that not all of those would want to settle here.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many legacy cases involving Gurkhas the UK Border Agency has; [275905]

how many Gurkha legacy cases had been concluded by 31 May 2009. [278549]

**Mr. Woolas:** Legacy cases are recorded by nationality. It is not possible to disaggregate the number of Nepalese cases that may involve Gurkhas without the examination of individual cases at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* former Gurkha soldiers and *(b)* dependants of such soldiers eligible for residency in the UK following the recent change in policy, broken down by period of service during (a) 1947 to 1952, (b) 1953 to 1958, (c) 1959 to 1964, (d) 1965 to 1969, (e) 1970 to 1974, (f) 1975 to 1979, (g) 1980 to 1984, (h) 1985 to 1989, (i) 1990 to 1994, (j) 1995 to 1999 and (k) 2000 to 2004. [278660]

**Mr. Woolas:** The estimate of the number of former Gurkha soldiers and the dependants of such soldiers eligible for residency in the UK following the recent change in policy was not broken down by the period of service of the former Gurkha soldiers.

The estimates were based on the known age profile of former Gurkha soldiers and the estimated age profile of their spouses and dependants.

### Immigration: Health Professions

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign-born *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses have achieved residency requirements in the UK in each of the last three years by country of origin. [276890]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 362-63W.

### Internet: Privacy

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on the privacy of individuals of *(a)* Google's use of personal information in its online advertising and search functions and *(b)* the model for targeted online advertising used by Phorm and other companies. [276980]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have been asked to reply.

All providers of behavioural advertising have to comply with UK laws.

The Internet Advertising Bureau (the IAB), the UK trade association, has developed with Members a set of principles on the use of data to provide online behavioural advertising (OBA) to safeguard individual privacy. They are public commitments of good practice made by the signatory Members to users.

They are based on three core principles—notice about data collection, user choice as to whether to participate and education about behavioural advertising and its benefits—with the goal of building trust and understanding in OBA and enhancing users' ability to control the use of information for these purposes.

The principles address a broader scope than required under existing law, by covering the use of all information used for OBA, both anonymous information and personal data (in the United Kingdom, the latter is primarily addressed by the Data Protection Act 1998, as amended, and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003). They also consider where special care is needed for certain categories of data, such as personally identifiable information or sensitive data.

Signatories of the Good Practice Principles include Google and Phorm.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 11 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms Safia Sher Wali Mamakhel. [250863]

**Alan Johnson:** My right hon. Friend the former Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith), wrote to the right hon. Member on 19 January 2009.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 12 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. A Ur Rehman. [266363]

**Alan Johnson:** My right hon. Friend the former Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith) wrote to the right hon. Member on 6 April 2009.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 21 April 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay on his constituents Mr and Mrs Adedoyin (case reference M9615/9). [277870]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 3 June 2009]:* The UK Border Agency replied to the hon. Member on 3 June 2009.

### Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he plans to provide a substitution answer to question 265844, on European arrest warrants and prison escapes, tabled on 18 March 2009 for answer on 24 March; [268902]

(2) when he plans to provide a substitution answer to question 265788, on European arrest warrants, tabled on 18 March 2009 for answer on 24 March. [268903]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 21 April 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 9 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 814W.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he plans to provide a substitution answer to question 265789, on European arrest warrants, tabled on 18 March 2009 for answer on 24 March; [268904]

(2) when he plans to provide a substitution answer to question 265787, on European arrest warrants and convictions, tabled on 18 March 2009 for answer on 24 March. [268906]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 21 April 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 9 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 815W.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer Question 270715 tabled on 20 April 2009, on the hon. Member for Ashford; and if he will make a statement. [275604]

**Mr. Hanson:** My hon. Friend, the previous Minister for Policing, Crime and Security (Vernon Coaker), replied to the hon. Member on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 713W.

### Passports

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new passport applications his Department has *(a)* received and *(b)* refused in the last 12 months. [278111]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows total intake and volumes of applications that were failed on nationality grounds and volumes that were withdrawn from the application process for other reasons.

| | *Intake* | *Failed* | *Withdrawn* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| June 2008 | 588,697 | 393 | 2,042 | 2,635 |
| July 2008 | 544,341 | 494 | 1,964 | 2,458 |
| August 2008 | 363,529 | 460 | 1,678 | 2,138 |
| September 2008 | 337,024 | 502 | 1,934 | 2,436 |
| October 2008 | 292,713 | 469 | 1,716 | 2,185 |
| November 2008 | 249,265 | 400 | 1,530 | 1,930 |
| December 2008 | 187,357 | 312 | 1,271 | 1,583 |
| January 2009 | 426,357 | 361 | 1,421 | 1,782 |
| February 2009 | 458,970 | 410 | 1,166 | 1,576 |
| March 2009 | 579,526 | 526 | 1,288 | 1,814 |
| April 2009 | 537,777 | 481 | 1,210 | 1,691 |
| May 2009 | 537,753 | 444 | 1,219 | 1,663 |
| Total | 5,103,309 | 5,452 | 18,459 | 23,911 |

### Police Reform Act 2002

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what files his Department holds on Part 2 of the Police Reform Act 2002; and if he will make a statement. [279138]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Home Office holds a range of papers relating to the provisions in part 2 of the Police reform Act 2002 establishing a new system for handling complaints against the police.

### Police: Procurement

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 669W, on police: procurement, what the findings were of the review of police service

spending on goods and services; and whether he plans to publish the review. [278429]

**Alan Johnson:** The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Procurement Portfolio Group, on behalf of the 43 police forces in England and Wales, have now agreed that during 2009-10 the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) will co-ordinate, facilitate and deliver a national approach to managing the top 10 categories of goods and services and top 10 suppliers identified as highest spend. Savings from employing this national approach will be realised within police force budgets over a two-year rolling programme.

Due to the sensitive commercial nature of data relating to expenditure with suppliers and the fact that negotiations are currently in progress, the financial content of the review cannot be made publicly available at this time. Each police force will make the decision together with their own police authority as to whether their own savings are made publicly available either by police force or by region.

### Serious Organised Crime Agency

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency Annual Report 2008-09, what the offences were for which the 266 convictions were secured by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in 2008-09. [278439]

**Alan Johnson:** The 266 UK convictions referred to in the Serious Organised Crime Agency's annual report occurred as a result of operations as follows:

| | *Number of UK convictions* |
|---|---|
| Criminals and their businesses (criminal finances and profits) | 25 |
| Drugs | 197 |
| Organised Immigration Crime | 15 |
| Fraud | 20 |
| Cross-cutting (firearms, UK Borders, other threats) | 9 |

### Serious Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed in the E-Crime Unit of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [278433]

**Alan Johnson:** At 1 June 2009, 40 staff were employed in SOCA's e-crime department, with other staff employed by Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre working on offences of alleged child abuse where technology may be a factor.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff were directly employed by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency on 31 March *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [278435]

**Alan Johnson:** The number of full-time equivalent staff (budgeted) employed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) which includes seconded officers was as follows:

| *As at 31 March each year* | *Full-time equivalent staff* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 4040.92 |
| 2008 | 3973.45 |
| 2009 | 3997.41 |

### Serious Organised Crime Agency: Resignations

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff resigned from the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in each of the last four quarters. [278443]

**Alan Johnson:** The numbers of staff resigning from the Serious Organised Crime Agency in the last four quarters was as follows:

First quarter 2008-09: 75

Second quarter 2008-09: 52

Third quarter 2008-09: 38

Fourth quarter 2008-09: 38

### Terrorism

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which groups have been identified by the National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit as domestic extremist campaigns or threats. [277687]

**Alan Johnson:** NETCU (the National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit) has a long history of supporting the police service in England and Wales to facilitate lawful and peaceful public protest. Only a very small number of individuals are prepared to use criminality and disorder in the belief that it will further their cause, whether that cause is aligned to a campaign group or not. The police do not publicly announce the identity of individuals who they regard as a threat or an operational priority as this would be likely to compromise police operations and investigations.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 373W, on terrorism, whether counter-terrorism security advisers maintain a record of the names and contact details of those that have received project Argus training. [278445]

**Alan Johnson:** Delegates at each event are invited to complete feedback forms which request them to provide their names and other contact details. This information may be used to undertake necessary follow-up action on protective security and to improve future Argus events. However, in general, police counter-terrorism security advisers maintain records on a long-term basis only of the names of the businesses (not persons) attending project Argus events.

### UK Border Agency: Correspondence

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 29 April 2009 on a constituent, references M1100646 and B14708/9. [278497]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 28 May 2009.

### UK Border Agency: Manpower

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many airport liaison officers are employed by the UK Border Agency; and what their average annual salary is. [278706]

**Mr. Woolas:** The available data are set out in the following table:

*Airport liaison officer function*[1]

| *Grade*[2] | *Head count* | *Annualised notional pay amount (£)*[3] |
|---|---|---|
| CIO Chief Immigration Officer | 48 | 30,403 |
| HM Inspector of Immigration | 6 | 35,774 |
| Immigration Officer | 27 | 24,014 |
| Average overall | 87 | 28,620 |

[1] Information is only available, at this level, on employees presently held on the central UK Border Agency computerised personnel system ADELPHI.
[2] Other grades comprising less than five members of staff have been excluded.
[3] National pay excluding allowances. Average annualised figure based on actual May 2009 pay.

Airport liaison officer is not a specific UK Border Agency grade but a function. 87 individuals are presently employed by the Risk and Liaison Overseas Network which is the unit responsible for this function, in the above grades.

Any other UK Border Agency employees still held on loan to Foreign and Commonwealth Office, or other FCO-managed staff who became part of UK Border Force in the machinery of Government changes cannot be differentiated by function except at disproportionate cost.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Change AGEnts

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if her Department will provide funding for the new organisation Change AGEnts for its work on behalf of older people. [277294]

**Angela Eagle:** I can confirm that the Department has offered funding to Change AGEnts. Details for ensuring a one-off payment to Change Agents GB Limited for the purpose of developing and promoting the engagement of older people with Government at all levels, are currently being finalised.

### Children: Maintenance

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects all child maintenance cases to have been transferred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [278467]



**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what date he expects all child maintenance cases to have been transferred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [278467]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the Child Support Agency from 1 November 2008. The CSA continues to operate and improve performance of the current statuary schemes on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission plans to introduce the new statutory maintenance scheme set out in the Child Maintenance and other Payments Act 2008, in 2011. At that time existing clients of the CSA will, if they choose to, be supported through an application to this new scheme. The Commission expects the transition process to take around 3 years after which both CSA Schemes will close.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Council Tax Benefits: Scotland

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of council tax benefit in each constituency in Scotland. [279575]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Housing benefit, including council tax benefit, information is not available at constituency level.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279487]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DWP has no contracts with the think-tank Demos.

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of invoices her Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [278821]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Data on the number and proportion of invoices paid within 10 days have been recorded since November 2008. The percentage and number of invoices paid by the Department for Work and Pensions within 10 days of receipt in each of the last seven months is shown in the following table.

| | *Percentage of all invoices paid within 10 days* | *Number of invoices paid within 10 days* |
|---|---|---|
| November 2008 | 70 | 44,437 |
| December 2008 | 64 | 45,505 |

| | Percentage of all invoices paid within 10 days | Number of invoices paid within 10 days |
|---|---|---|
| January 2009 | 73 | 43,915 |
| February 2009 | 86 | 58,281 |
| March 2009 | 92 | 61,768 |
| April 2009 | 94 | 46,657 |
| May 2009 | 96 | 48,367 |

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many programmes centres her Department had in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; [271625]

(2) how many programme centres have reported capacity problems to her Department in the last six months. [271626]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not available in full; the following table shows what is available.

| | Number of programme centres |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 78 |
| 2007-08 | 118 |
| 2006-07 | 118 |

There have been no capacity issues reported by a programme centre in the last six months.

Any short-term capacity issues raised by programme centres are immediately dealt with by Contract Managers and Jobcentre Plus locally.

### Departmental Reviews

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library a copy of the independent review of Star Rating carried out for her Department by ATOS Consulting. [277221]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* An independent review of the Department's prototype Star Rating model was commissioned by the Department and undertaken by Atos Consulting. I have arranged for a copy of Atos Consulting's report to be placed in the Library.

### Employment Schemes: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unemployed people aged over 50 years have been assisted back to work by her Department in *(a)* Denton and Reddish constituency, *(b)* Stockport metropolitan borough and *(c)* Tameside metropolitan borough in each year since 1997. [277505]

**Jim Knight:** Information on the number of people aged 50 and over in the specified areas who have been helped into work through all sources is not available. Information on the number of people aged 50 and over who have been helped into work though the New Deal 50 plus programme is in the table.

*New Deal 50 Plus*

| Location | Employment credit starts to March 2003 | Number of people gaining a job from April 2003 | Total job gains |
|---|---|---|---|
| Denton and Reddish constituency | 170 | 110 | 280 |
| Stockport metropolitan borough | 390 | 210 | 600 |
| Tameside metropolitan borough | 340 | 260 | 600 |

*Notes:*
1. New Deal 50 plus was introduced in April 2000.
2. Available statistics on the New Deal 50+ programme prior to March 2003 comprised the number of people receiving the New Deal 50+ employment credit; an employment credit is paid to individuals during their first year back at work on a full-time basis.
3. Latest data are to August 2008.
4. Jobs gained from April 2006 are identified mainly from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. Care should be taken when comparing jobs gained before and after April 2006.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore may not sum to total due to rounding.

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the money assigned to the Future Jobs Fund in Budget 2009 is classified as *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* employment programme spending for the purpose of his Department's three-year business plan. [278261]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* In the Department's three-year plan, £1.1 billion is assigned to the Future Jobs Fund. Of this, £20 million is allocated to Jobcentre Plus and £1.08 billion is allocated to the employment programmes.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk claiming incapacity benefits had drug or drink dependency listed as their primary medical condition in each of the last five years. [273248]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the Personal Capability Assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. For example, the decision for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on the grounds of alcohol and/or drug related conditions would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the Personal Capability Assessment.

The available information is in the following table.

*The number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants who have alcoholism or drug abuse recorded as their main disabling condition*

| | Suffolk | | | East of England | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *As at August each year* | *All* | *Alcoholism* | *Drug abuse* | *All* | *Alcoholism* | *Drug abuse* |
| 2004 | 21,370 | 180 | 190 | 180,870 | 2,110 | 2,470 |
| 2005 | 21,380 | 200 | 200 | 180,250 | 2,170 | 2,560 |
| 2006 | 21,280 | 220 | 200 | 178,890 | 2,280 | 2,590 |
| 2007 | 21,420 | 240 | 240 | 180,620 | 2,450 | 2,710 |
| 2008 | 21,440 | 260 | 290 | 181,040 | 2,610 | 2,870 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data for Suffolk refer to the county of Suffolk.

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new claims for incapacity benefit have been made in each year since 1997; and what the average time taken between the date of a first claim for incapacity benefit and the date of first payment of that benefit has been in each such year. [278046]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many new claims for Incapacity Benefit have been made in each year since 1997; and what the average time taken between the date of a first claim for Incapacity Benefit and the date of first payment of that benefit has been in each year since 1997. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Please find attached at Annex 1 the number of Incapacity Benefit new claims made in each year since 2003. This is the date from which records are held. We do not hold management information relating to the period between the date of claim and payment. However, Jobcentre Plus's Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) Target measures the average number of working days taken to process a claim for Incapacity Benefit. Incapacity Benefit AACT is calculated from the date a properly completed claim form is received by Jobcentre Plus to the date a decision is made. This information is also provided at Annex 1.

*Annex A: Average actual clearance times (AACT) for incapacity benefit claims*

| | | *Number of days* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Incapacity benefit claims received* | *Incapacity benefit AACT* | *Target* |
| 2003-04 | 777,453 | 16.0 | 22 |
| 2004-05 | 790,590 | 17.0 | 22 |
| 2005-06 | 671,383 | 16.3 | 19 |
| 2006-07 | 692,802 | 15.9 | 18 |
| 2007-08 | 676,715 | 13.1 | 18 |
| 2008-09 | 481,076 | 13.3 | 15 |

## Industrial Accidents

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions since 1999 court proceedings as a consequence of a prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive relating to a work-related death were not concluded within *(a)* five and *(b)* three years following the incident. [278658]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Health and Safety Executive have taken and concluded 836 prosecutions as a result of 665 work-related deaths that occurred between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2008.

635 prosecutions were concluded within three years of the incident date of the work-related death.

176 prosecutions were not concluded within three years of the incident date of the work-related death.

25 prosecutions were not concluded within five years of the incident date of the work-related death.

A further 78 prosecutions following work-related deaths were taken and concluded in the period from 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2008, but these prosecution records do not identify the dates of the fatal incidents concerned. The time taken to complete these prosecutions can therefore not be readily determined.

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work-related deaths since 1999 have resulted in prosecutions by the Health and Safety Executive. [278659]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Health and Safety Executive have taken prosecutions as a result of 665 work-related deaths that occurred between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2008.

The above number of deaths, which have resulted in a prosecution, is likely to increase because investigation and enforcement activity on some more recent deaths has not yet concluded.

A further 78 prosecutions following work related deaths were taken and concluded in the period from 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2008, but these prosecution records do not identify the dates of the fatal incidents concerned. Some of these may therefore have occurred before the 1 April 1999.

## Jobcentre Plus

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the Jobcentre Plus National Workload Projection update from Quarter *(a)* one and *(b)* two 2009; [276440]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of each Jobcentre Plus National Workload Projection update used as assumptions for the Budget 2009. [276442]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 19 May 2009]:* Available information has been placed in the Library.

Only the quarter one 2009 national workload projection update is available.

The Jobcentre Plus National Workload Projection update used as assumptions for the Budget 2009 is informing the flexible new deal bids and is commercially sensitive.

### Jobcentre Plus: Civil Proceedings

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1302W, on Jobcentre Plus: civil proceedings, how many times legal action has been taken against *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* individual Jobcentre staff in each region since 2002; on what basis such action was taken in respect of each case in which legal proceedings have been concluded; and what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of such action. [269291]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of permanent Jobcentre Plus staff who *(a)* are classified as without a permanent post and *(b)* have been classified as without a permanent post for more than 12 months. [271958]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking for a recent estimate of the number of permanent Jobcentre Plus staff who a) are classified as without a permanent post and b) have been classified as without a permanent post for more than 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In Jobcentre Plus, anyone who is formally recognised as not having a sustainable posting is classified as surplus. This provides such individuals with priority status when seeking a permanent post in Jobcentre Plus or elsewhere in Whitehall. As at April 2009, there were 155 surplus staff in Jobcentre Plus. Of that number, 81 people have been surplus for more than 12 months.

Naturally, in a large customer service organisation structural change is often required in order to meet changing customer needs. Of the 155 cases we are reporting, 125 are Band As. The Band A position was subject to structural change in parts of the Jobcentre Plus operation during 2007/08 and resulted in 550 Band As being declared surplus. We have been successful in reducing that number to the current level. Surplus staff are actively engaged in delivering a range of Jobcentre Plus projects and duties while seeking a new permanent position.

Line managers are responsible for supporting individuals who are declared surplus. We manage such impacts of workforce reductions on our people, through a framework agreed with our Trade Unions and these are operated within a set of Cabinet Office protocols that apply across the Civil Service. These require us to take all reasonable steps to minimise compulsory redundancies. To date no members of staff have been made redundant against their will.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage change in the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance in each local authority area in England and Wales was over the last 12 months. [275233]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Local Housing Allowance

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reason was for the decision in Budget 2009 not to pay tenants the local housing allowance rate when their actual rent is less. [279562]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government are committed to help people keep a decent roof over their heads but cannot afford in the current climate to pay people more than they need to do that. In the interests of fairness our priority is to target benefits where they are needed most. The removal of the £15 excess will mean that some people will receive less benefit but, importantly, this should not affect their ability to meet their rent.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the number of landlords who have not accepted potential tenants who are on local housing allowance housing benefit on the grounds that the benefit is not paid directly to the landlord. [279563]

**Jonathan Shaw:** This information is not available.

### New Deal Schemes

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on benefits for New Deal participants in the latest year for which figures are available. [247549]

**Jim Knight:** The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether participants who have not finished their existing New Deal programme by the end of September 2009 will be referred to the flexible New Deal in those areas covered by phase 1 Flexible New Deal contracts. [271716]

**Mr. McNulty:** In the 28 districts where Flexible New Deal is due to start from October 2009, DWP has agreed contractual changes with New Deal providers, including those in private sector-led New Deal areas and Employment Zones, to ensure that customers who are referred after April 2009 will be able to complete their provision by the end of September 2009.

Where it has not been possible for a jobseeker to complete existing New Deal provision by September 2009, provided there is no break in their Jobseeker's Allowance claim, the customer will enter the supported job-search stage of the new Jobseekers Regime to receive additional support from Jobcentre Plus personal advisers. The supported job-search stage usually lasts for six months, although in this instance the time spent with an existing New Deal provider would be taken into account. Should the jobseeker remain unemployed after the

supported job-search stage, they will be referred to the Flexible New Deal for up to 12 months of specialist, individually-tailored support.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment she has made of the effect on the New Deal programme of the time taken to announce the preferred bidders for Flexible New Deal contracts; and if she will make a statement; [277074]

(2) how many preferred bidders for Phase 1 Flexible New Deal contracts had been notified of the fact as at *(a)* 27 April, *(b)* 4 May, *(c)* 11 May and *(d)* 18 May 2009; and when she expects to notify the remaining preferred bidders. [277203]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* Jobcentre Plus introduced the refreshed Jobseekers Regime and a range of additional support measures for jobseekers from 6 April 2009. The New Deal contracts take account of these changes, with referrals continuing until the end of June 2009, thereby enabling providers to support customers until the end of September, with the Flexible New Deal contracts due to start in October 2009.

Between July and September, any customer who has received jobseeker's allowance for six months will have access to additional support and enter the supported Job Search stage of the refreshed regime, with referral to the Flexible New Deal provider six months later if they remain in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.

Preferred bidders were notified of results of the Flexible New Deal competition on 29 May and we expect to award contracts in good time to begin delivery in October 2009.

### Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer Question 271324, tabled on 22 April 2009, on 0845 telephone numbers. [275954]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* The hon. Member's question was answered on 4 June 2009. *Official Report*, columns 621-22W.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answers of *(a)* 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 117W, on incapacity benefit: voluntary work and *(b)* 5 May 2009, Official *Report*, column 124W, on pathways to work, what the reasons were for the time taken to respond in each case; and if she will make a statement. [276053]

**Jim Knight:** We need to ensure that answers given to Parliament are accurate and robust, and we endeavour to answer all questions as quickly as possible. I would like to apologise to my hon. Friend for the delay in answering her questions in these instances.

### Social Fund

**Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance Social Fund administrators offer to potential recipients of assistance from the fund on other potential sources of assistance. [268702]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Social Fund administrators do not routinely refer customers to other potential sources of assistance. In October 2008 Jobcentre Plus introduced a policy to signpost those customers who were not eligible to receive support from the Social Fund to money advice. Having been successfully piloted in a number of areas, the initiative is being implemented nationally this year.

### Social Security Benefits

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she takes to ensure that the typical characteristics of benefit claimants are portrayed accurately in official publications and statements. [279643]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In addition to information gathered as part of our ongoing contacts with our customers, DWP already carries out extensive research and testing exercises to ensure that our customers and their needs are fully understood, and to make sure that they are portrayed accurately and sensitively in our communications.

### Vocational Training

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent steps have been taken to assist young people in finding work; [268058]

(2) what recent steps have been taken to assist older people in finding work. [268059]

**Jim Knight:** The Budget has made an additional £2.8 billion available to DWP, on top of the £1.3 billion announced in the pre-Budget report, which will ensure that over the next two years we can continue to expand our support to jobseekers through the economic downturn. Among other initiatives, this extra funding will enable us to guarantee a job or other meaningful activity to young people and certain disadvantaged groups from the 12-month point of their claim.

In addition, we are investing £0.5 billion over two years to support all jobseekers through an expanded range of work and training options to provide jobs through recruitment subsidies, support to start a business, work-related training and volunteering opportunities. This extra help was introduced on 6 April and is available to all those who have been out of work and claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more.

The introduction of the Flexible New Deal in phase one areas from October will establish a new, unified approach for longer-term jobseekers, whatever their age, skills or barriers to work. The Flexible New Deal will deliver work-focused support, tailored to each individual's needs and local labour market requirements.

### Welfare to Work: Standards

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library a copy of each edition of her Department's monthly report summarising the performance of all welfare-to-work providers against agreed targets. [271688]

**Jim Knight:** A copy of the most recent report, which includes the cumulative performance of contracted provision up to the end of February 2009, has been placed in the Library as requested.

The DWP is developing plans to make this information available on a monthly basis from later in 2009 via the DWP website.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer Question 274722, tabled on 12 May 2009, on child maintenance arrears. [278039]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 535-36W.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the recent *(a)* Ministerial reshuffle and *(b)* changes to the machinery of government; and if he will make a statement. [279843]

**The Prime Minister:** The numbers of salaried Ministers is governed by the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975. The cost of machinery of government changes will be met by relevant Departments within existing departmental budgets.

### Intelligence Services: Publications

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 495W, on intelligence services: publication, what facilities the security and intelligence agencies are authorised to afford to persons undertaking research for publications which are not official publications; at what level, and in what circumstances, members of the security and intelligence services are authorised to grant *(a)* interviews and *(b)* other assistance to such persons; and if he will make a statement. [279129]

**The Prime Minister:** Arrangements governing the release of information into the public domain by the security and intelligence services are in accordance with the requirements of the Security Service Act 1989 and the Intelligence Services Act 1994. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Prime Minister: Official Engagements

**Sir Robert Smith:** To ask the Prime Minister what his engagements were between 3pm and 8pm on Wednesday 10 June. [279913]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) at Prime Minister's questions on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 784W.

### World War II: Anniversaries

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what representations he has made to the French authorities on the representatives of the UK Government to be invited to the 65th anniversary commemorations of D-Day and the Normandy Campaign; and if he will make a statement; [279130]

(2) what representations the Government received on the level of official representation of the UK at the 65th anniversary commemoration of D-Day and the Normandy Campaign organised by the French government; when such representations were received; and if he will make a statement; [279131]

(3) on what date the Government was first invited to send representatives to the 65th anniversary commemorations of D-Day and the Normandy Campaign organised by the French authorities; and what response was made; [279132]

(4) on what date the Government was first informed by the French authorities of the proposed programme of events to commemorate the 65th anniversary of D-Day and the Normandy Campaign. [279133]

**The Prime Minister:** I attended the 65th anniversary of the D-Day celebrations on 6 June, including a memorial service at Bayeux cathedral, and a ceremony with President Sarkozy, President Obama and Prime Minister Harper at the Colleville cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. Prince Charles attended on behalf of the royal family. The palace have made clear that they were content with these arrangements.

## TREASURY

### Child Trust Fund: Cleethorpes

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child trust fund vouchers have been issued to residents of Cleethorpes constituency in each year since their introduction; and how many accounts have been opened as a result. [279272]

**Ian Pearson:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) latest available estimates are that 940 child trust fund vouchers were issued in Cleethorpes to children born between 6 April 2006 and 5 April 2007 and that 670 child trust fund accounts were subsequently opened by the parents or guardians of those children. HMRC opens accounts on behalf of children if the parents or guardian do not.

HMRC does not hold constituency level data for previous years.

### Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278733]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Treasury reported no cases of loss or mishandling of personal information or data to the Information Commissioner during the year ended 30 April 2009.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279484]

**Kitty Ussher:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Departmental Training

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on health and safety training for its staff in each of the last two years. [278144]

**Kitty Ussher:** Estimated external expenditure on health and safety training was £36,500 in 2007-08 and £40,000 in 2008-09. Other information and training for officials is provided by our in-house health and safety team and costs cannot be identified separately from their other duties.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 12 May 2009 on National Savings, PO reference: 1/72186/2009; [279916]

(2) when he plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 7 May 2009 on interest rate reductions, PO reference: 1/71848/2009. [279918]

**Ian Pearson:** I have replied to the hon. Member.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 539W, on public expenditure, if he will publish the forthcoming factual paper on the Barnett Formula before the summer adjournment. [279568]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* No decision has yet been made regarding the publication date of the factual paper on the Barnett Formula.

### Tax Avoidance

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many investigations concerning IR35 were launched in each of the last five years; and how many of them resulted in *(a)* prosecution, *(b)* an increase in tax due and *(c)* no further action. [273420]

**Kitty Ussher:** The intermediaries legislation, commonly known as "IR35", was introduced with effect from 6 April 2000 to counter the avoidance of employed levels of tax and national insurance by individuals providing their services through intermediaries.

Disclosure of HM Revenue and Customs' compliance data relating to the legislation would result in a risk of non-compliance with the legislation. Accordingly I am not able to provide the data requested.

### Taxation

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of the application of the Rees Rules on the introduction of retrospective legislation in light of HM Revenue and Customs' announcement of 1 April 2009 on employment loss planning; and if he will make a statement. [277696]

**Mr. Timms:** The Rees Rules continue to provide a useful guide when Ministers consider retrospective legislation and were considered in connection with the announcement I made on 1 April 2009.

### Taxation: Business

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of granting 100 per cent. capital allowances to all business enterprises. [260262]

**Mr. Timms:** The Annual Investment Allowance provides 100 per cent. relief on capital expenditure on all plant and machinery (apart from cars) up to £50,000 a year, covering the capital expenditure of nearly 95 per cent. of UK businesses at a cost of £1.56 billion in 2008-09.

It would cost the Exchequer an estimated additional £5 billion in 2009-10 to provide 100 per cent. relief for all new capital expenditure on all plant and machinery (apart from cars).

### Taxation: Gaming Machines

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the introduction of a gross profit tax to replace amusement machine licence duty with the Hampton principles of better regulation; and if he will make a statement; [279741]

(2) what regulatory impact assessment he plans to publish as part of the consultation on the introduction of a gross profit tax to replace amusement machine licence duty. [279742]

**Kitty Ussher:** An impact assessment, including an assessment of compatibility with Hampton principles, will be published alongside the consultation document on moving gaming machines taxation to a gross profits regime. We expect to publish these before the summer recess.

### Taxation: Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether each of the banks in which the Government has a shareholding makes it their policy to offer mortgages to buyers seeking to participate in shared *(a)* equity and *(b)* ownership schemes; [275662]

(2) which of the banks in which the Government owns a shareholding offer mortgages for purchases of properties under shared ownership schemes. [277997]

**Ian Pearson:** Decisions concerning whether to engage in lending to support shared equity of shared ownership remain commercial decisions for firms. Where there is public sector investment in banks these stakes are managed on an arm's length and independent basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd.

The Government remain committed to the delivery of affordable housing, including through both shared equity and shared ownership schemes. The Homebuy Direct scheme, introduced in 2008, offers households equity loans of up to 30 per cent. of market value, and co-funded by Government and developers, to buy a new build property.

At present Homebuy Direct is supported by a number of banks in which the Government have made investments, including Halifax (as part of Lloyds Banking Group), and RBS. Northern Rock is discussing participation with the HCA.

### Valuation Office: Training

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what external training courses Valuation Office Agency officials have undertaken in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [275768]

**Mr. Timms:** Valuation Office Agency staff have attended the following centrally recorded external training events. Provider names are included for completeness. Details of attendance at local events run by professional partner bodies are not recorded centrally. The events listed represent a total of approximately 200 training days.

| | *Provider* |
|---|---|
| Mediation Event | Conflict Management Plus |
| Accessibility for e-Learning | Bizmedia Ltd. |
| Accreditation Scheme for Commercial Building Energy Assessors | Building Research Establishment Ltd. |
| Accreditation Scheme for Display Energy Certificates | Building Research Establishment Ltd. |
| Affordable Housing Delivery | London Development Events |
| Agricultural Landlord and Tenant | Harper Adams University College |
| Agricultural Law 2009 | Lexis Nexis (aka Butterworths) |
| Assertiveness Course | Impact Factory |
| Basic Book-keeping and Accounts course | Haysden Training Ltd. |
| Building Cost Effective ERDM Strategies | Ark Group |
| Business Disturbance Claims Seminar | Contact Property Training Ltd. |
| Business Tenancies and Commercial Property Management | CPT Events |
| City of London: Beyond the Credit Crunch | CMPI Limited |
| Coaching Sessions | Active Learning Partnership Limited |
| Collaborative Approaches to Resolving Complex Challenges | WIG |
| Creating Accessible PDF's | PWS Ltd. |
| Domestic Energy Assessor | BRE |
| Dragon Naturally Speaking Software Training | E-Voice Speech Recognition Ltd. |
| ERM Practitioner Training Class | AIIM International |
| Essential Commercialisation Skills Course | Kaplan Financial Ltd. |
| Expert Witness | Bond Solon Training |
| Expert Witness and Advocacy Roadshow | RICS |
| Fundamentals of Governance | Quorum Training |
| Fundamentals of Marketing for Public Sector and Not for Profit | CIM Holdings Ltd. |
| Future Housing | Govnet Communications |
| Illustrator CSS Masterclass | Academy Class Ltd. |
| Introduction to Business Analysis | Learning Tree International |
| Lead On Masterclass | Cazbah Limited |
| Lean in Local Government Workshop | Ad Esse |
| Learning Design and Web 2.0 | British Institute for Learning |
| Lease Matters | Contract Property Services |
| Leasehold Update Seminar 2008 | Jordan Publishing Limited |
| Level 4 Diploma in Non Domestic Energy Assessment | Building Research Establishment Ltd. |
| Major Developments in Southampton | RICS |
| Making a Case for e-Learning | The e-Learning Network |
| PCPF Seminar | Primary Care Premises Forum |
| Presenting with Impact | Leadership Skills Training Ltd. |
| Presenting Yourself—for Top Women Managers | Solace Enterprises Limited |
| PRINCE2 Practitioner Course | Focus on Training |
| Principles Project Management | WPM Training Ltd. |
| Programme and Project Support Office—PSOI | National School of Government |
| Project Management Essentials—PMIN | National School of Government |
| RICS Expert Witness and Advocacy Roadshow | RICS |
| RICS Public Sector Asset Management Roadshow | RICS |
| RICS Red Book Workshop | RICS |
| RICS Rural Mid Session | RICS |
| RICS Telelcoms Forum Annual | RICS |
| RICS Valuers' Roadshow | RICS |
| RICS Wales Housing Briefing | RICS |
| SAS Essentials—Introduction to SAS Programming | SAS UK |
| Selling to Local Government Roadshow | BIP Solutions Ltd. |
| Senior Leaders Programme | Whitehall and Industry Group |
| Sharpen your Writing Skills | Hendhall Centre Ltd. |
| Situational Leadership Accreditation (Day 3) | Leadership Development—Situation Solutions |
| SPA Core and Quarry Renewal | Trainow Associates |
| SPA Core and Quarry Safety Passport Course | NLT Training Services |
| SPA Core and Quarry Safety Passport Course | GSS Training Ltd. |
| SQL Processing with SAS (SQL9) | SAS UK |

| | *Provider* |
|---|---|
| Staff Inspection Techniques | National School of Government |
| Supporting the Business with Effective HR Strategy | HR Society |
| Surveyor as Expert Witness | RICS |
| "Surveyors Facing the Expert Witness Challenge" | RICS |
| TACSTALK | TACS Talk |
| The Greenhouse and Reporting on Health and Safety Risks in Homes | Contract Property Training Ltd. |
| Train the Trainer | Training and Development Solutions |
| Tutor Training Programme | Suzy Lamplugh Trust |
| Understanding Change Management | Govnet Communications |
| Understanding Residential and Commercial Property Taxes | Contact Property Training (CPT Events) |
| Viability and Revising s106 requirements | London Development Events |
| Welsh Language Course—Foundation | Nant Gwrtheyrn |
| Welsh Language Course—Intensive (Pilot) Course | Nant Gwrtheyrn |
| Welsh Language Course—Intermediate | Nant Gwrtheyrn |

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will exclude households with an income of over £50,000 from eligibility for tax credits. [278015]

**Mr. Timms:** Nine out of 10 families are entitled to tax credits. This near-universal provision has helped reverse decades of stigma attached to financial support that prevented the very poorest taking up the help they needed. Take-up of tax credits is now the highest ever for an income-related system of financial support, at 81 per cent. overall and 92 per cent. for the poorest fifth of families. Tax credits are carefully targeted so that the greatest support goes to the poorest families. Only a tiny proportion of tax credits spending goes to those earning more than £50,000—just 0.2 per cent. of overall entitlement in 2007-08.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to extend entitlement to tax credits to people with children under the age of 25 who receive education maintenance grant on the basis of parental income. [279866]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government do not provide financial support to parents of young people who are taking advanced courses. In these cases, young people are entitled to a separate stream of support. This reflects that the move into work or advanced education is seen as the point at which young people become independent. It is the Government's view that the student support mechanism is the most appropriate way of providing support.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Climate Change

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277714]

**Mr. McFadden:** It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings over the next three years. It has, however, been shown in the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change that timely and well-targeted climate adaptation measures will yield benefits in excess of their costs. The main rationale for investment to address climate risk will be to reduce the UK's vulnerability to longer-term climate change impacts.

The Government are undertaking a climate change risk assessment and economic analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament within three years of the Climate Change Act coming into force.

### Departmental Air Conditioning

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations entered into force. [272131]

**Mr. McFadden:** BIS will spend £5,574 on carrying out the inspection of its air conditioning system at its Headquarters building at 1 Victoria Street in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, this being the only building on its HQ Estate with a rating of over 250kW.

### Departmental Buildings

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274551]

**Mr. McFadden:** In the last five financial years, BIS has spent the following on building maintenance on its HQ Estate:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1.47 |
| 2005-06 | 1.28 |
| 2006-07 | 1.75 |
| 2007-08 | 1.70 |
| 2008-09 | 2.10 |

### South West Regional Development Agency

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on the *(a)* spending plans, *(b)* income and *(c)* capital receipts of the South West of England Regional Development Agency of the recession. [268640]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* RDAs are required to produce spending plans showing how they will use their resources to deliver their priorities. The Department has asked the RDAs to review those plans in the light of changes to their budgets and the changed economic conditions.

On an ongoing basis BIS monitors the Agencies use of resource budgets including the RDA's projected income for the year and the total value of write downs in relation to the RDA's capital assets.

## JUSTICE

### Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 616W, on antisocial behaviour: fixed penalties, how many penalty notices for disorder were issued *(a)* in a police station and *(b)* on the street in (i) 2002, (ii) 2003, (iii) 2004, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2006. [278426]

**Mr. Straw:** Information available to the Ministry of Justice on the number of persons aged 16 and over issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) in *(a)* a police station and *(b)* on the street, in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

PNDs were introduced under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 to provide the police with a simple financial punishment to deal with minor antisocial and nuisance offending either at a police station or on the street. Operational guidance to forces issued by the Secretary of State for Justice sets out the criteria which should be considered by officers in deciding where to issue a PND.

The PND was made available to all forces from April 2004.

*Number of persons aged 16 and over issued with a penalty notice for disorder in a police station and on the street in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006[1]*

| | Police station | Street |
|---|---|---|
| 2004[2] | 55,219 | 6,901 |
| 2005 | 110,432 | 34,845 |
| 2006 | 125,122 | 75,634 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] The penalty notice for disorder scheme commenced in 2004.
*Source:*
OCJR E and A (Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit), Ministry of Justice

### Crimes of Violence: Young Offenders

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effect of subsection 3 of section 91 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 on custodial sentencing for serious violent crimes committed by those aged under 21 years; and if he will make a statement. [278922]

**Claire Ward:** Custody for young people under 18 is the last resort. Where a person under 18 has committed a very serious offence (generally one for which a person aged 21 years or over could be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 14 years or more), section 91 of the Powers of Criminal Court (Sentencing) Act 2000 enables the court to impose a term of detention not exceeding the maximum term of imprisonment that a person aged 21 or over could receive for the same offence. Before the court may decide to impose a sentence of detention under section 91, subsection 3 requires it to consider all other possible disposals, including a shorter period of custody under a detention and training order.

Data provided by the Youth Justice Board indicate that at the end of March 2009 there were 2,036 young people under 18 serving custodial sentences, including 349 serving a sentence imposed under section 91. Of those, 150 had received a section 91 sentence principally for an offence of violence against the person.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged under 18 years were convicted of *(a)* grievous bodily harm and *(b)* violent disorder in each year since 2000; and what the average length custodial sentence was in each case. [278924]

**Claire Ward:** The number of persons aged 10 to 17 years who were found guilty at all courts for grievous bodily harm and violent disorder in England and Wales from 2000 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in table 1; with information on the average custodial sentence being in table 2.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Table 1: Number of persons aged 10 to 17 years who were found guilty at all courts for offences relating to grievous bodily harm[1] and violent disorder[2], in England and Wales, 2000-07[3,4]*

| | Found guilty | |
|---|---|---|
| | Grievous bodily harm | Violent disorder |
| 2000[5] | 901 | 173 |
| 2001 | 844 | 155 |
| 2002 | 904 | 182 |
| 2003 | 818 | 194 |
| 2004 | 884 | 211 |
| 2005 | 831 | 181 |
| 2006 | 820 | 143 |

*Table 1: Number of persons aged 10 to 17 years who were found guilty at all courts for offences relating to grievous bodily harm[1] and violent disorder[2], in England and Wales, 2000-07[3,4]*

| | Found guilty | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Grievous bodily harm* | *Violent disorder* |
| 2007 | 902 | 172 |

[1] Grievous bodily harm includes the following statutes and offence descriptions:
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 18.
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 29.
Causing explosion or casting corrosive fluids with intent to do grievous bodily harm.
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 20.
Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm.
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 20 as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec. 29(l)(a),(2).
Racially aggravated malicious wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm.
Offences Against the Person Act 1861 S20 as amended by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S29(l)(a) and (2).
Religiously aggravated malicious wounding of GBH
Offences Against the Person Act 1861 S20 as amended by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S29(l)(a) 8i (2)
Racially or religiously aggravated malicious wounding or GBH
[2] Violent disorder includes the following statute and offence description:
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 2.
Violent Disorder.
[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates' courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000.
Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures, as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.
*Source:*
OCJR - E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

*Table 2: Average custodial sentence length (months)[1] for grievous bodily harm and violent disorder, offenders aged 10 to 17, 2000-07*

| | *GBH* | *Violent disorder* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 18.0 | 7.6 |
| 2001 | 17.6 | 9.1 |
| 2002 | 18.7 | 9.5 |
| 2003 | 20.5 | 10.1 |
| 2004 | 21.1 | 8.8 |
| 2005 | 19.9 | 8.8 |
| 2006 | 19.7 | 10.5 |
| 2007 | 20.4 | 11.1 |

[1] ACSL excludes life/indeterminate sentences
*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

## Departmental Billing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275197]

**Maria Eagle:** Information for 2008-09 is currently being compiled and audited and will be published in the Ministry's 2008-09 resource accounts which are expected to be laid before Parliament in July 2009.

The Ministry of Justice and its agencies paid the following interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which published data are currently available:

| *Financial period* | *£* |
|---|---|
| *2007-08* | |
| The Ministry of Justice HQ | 28,000 |
| HM Prison Service | 198,145 |
| HM Courts Service | 44,211 |
| Tribunals Service | 0 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 0 |
| *2006-07* | |
| Department for Constitutional Affairs | 29,030 |
| HM Courts Service | 43,376 |
| Tribunals Service | 2,278 |
| Public Guardianship Office | 0 |
| *2005-06* | |
| Department for Constitutional Affairs (including Tribunals) | 16,773 |
| HM Courts Service | 24,683 |
| Public Guardianship Office | 0 |

The National Probation Service, which was part of the Ministry of Justice from 2007-08, is not included as information is held locally by 42 local probation boards or trusts and can be collated only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry of Justice is fully committed to achieving compliance with the Prime Minister's target of paying suppliers within 10 days and is a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code. During May 2009, the Ministry of Justice and its agencies paid 92 per cent. of invoices received within the 10-day target. This level of performance should ensure that interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 is greatly reduced for the current financial year.

## Departmental Drinking Water

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on water coolers in each of the last two years. [278148]

**Mr. Straw:** The expenditure on water coolers by the Ministry is stated in the following table:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *2008-09* | |
| Ministry of Justice HQ | 1,382 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 6,000 |
| Total | 7,382 |
| *2007-08* | 1,364 |
| Ministry of Justice HQ | 6,000 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 7,364 |

HM Courts Service data are not held centrally and can be collated only on a regional basis at disproportionate cost.

Data on water cooler expenditure by the National Offender Management Service are held locally by prisons and probation boards/trusts and can be collated only at disproportionate cost.

The accounting records of the Tribunals Service do not allow for the separate identification of expenditure on water coolers except at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last three years. [278665]

**Mr. Straw:** Expenditure on conference services by the Ministry of Justice, comprising headquarters and executive agencies (the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian), since its inception is as follows:

| *Financial period* | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 5,875,035 |
| 2007-08 | 4,256,611 |

The amounts above exclude expenditure by the 42 local probation boards and trusts within NOMS as this information is held locally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry's predecessor Department, the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA), incurred the following expenditure on conference services:

2006-07: £3,119,893.

The DCA was a smaller department which did not include the National Offender Management Service or the Office for Criminal Justice Reform which were part of the Home Office prior to 2007-08.

The growth in expenditure on conferences reflects the increasingly cross-cutting nature of government policy. Conferences represent an effective mechanism for bringing together stakeholders in the Government, private and voluntary sectors to promote a joined up approach to the delivery of front-line services.

Bookings for conferences and related expenditure must be made through designated contractors employed by the Ministry of Justice to identify venues and accommodation that offers best value for money.

The Ministry of Justice and the Department for Constitutional Affairs have no record of any expenditure on banqueting services in the last three years.

### National Offender Management Service: Training

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what training is provided for first line managers in the National Offender Management Service; [278557]

(2) how many first line managers in the National Offender Management Service have been offered appropriate training; and how many and what proportion of first line managers in the National Offender Management Service have undertaken this training; [278558]

(3) what plans for further training the National Offender Management Service has for first line management. [278559]

**Maria Eagle:** National Offender Management Service (NOMS) probation leadership and management development at first line manager level has to date largely been delivered at a local level in areas and trusts, through training consortia or areas and according to local need. A full audit and review of management development on the probation side is currently being undertaken through NOMS headquarters to inform planning for future delivery. In the interim, all NOMS managers (probation and prisons) have access to the NOMS tool, "My Leadership Potential", a new e-learning management development package launched in April 2009. This provides an opportunity for managers to develop their skills and knowledge on a self-managed learning basis. In addition, first-line management development activities are run locally by some probation areas and trusts according to need.

Data on how many and what proportion of probation first line managers have undertaken training has not historically been collected centrally, as first line management development has largely been organised and delivered locally. The current audit and review will provide information on which to base decisions on future interventions.

On the prisons side, the standard offering is the level 3 award in first line management, the introductory certificate in management, which has been offered to all first line managers since 2005. Until April 2009, all first time, first line managers with line manager support were eligible for this programme. In the region of 500-600 have participated annually during this time. This represents on average approximately 45 per cent. of the total number of newly promoted first line managers on an annual basis and 12-14 per cent. of the total number of first line managers. In April 2009, the programme was temporarily closed pending review of continuing fitness for purpose and an updated version or a comparable level 3 nationally accredited programme will be re-launched in October 2009.

With regard to plans for further training and development, on the probation side, the audit and review will provide information on which decisions will be made about future interventions. For prisons, the appropriate level 3 programme will be launched in October 2009.

### Prisons: Mental Health Services

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what evaluation has been made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* cost-effectiveness of the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder Programme in (i) enhancing public safety and (ii) improving the health of people subject to it. [279063]

**Maria Eagle:** The Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder (DSPD) programme has two linked evaluations. The first, focusing on treatment offered and responses to treatment, is being carried out by the University of Oxford. It is due to report to the stakeholder Departments, the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Health, by the end of this year. The second, concerned with staffing and organisation, is by Imperial College. It is due to report in the first quarter of 2010. These two studies will provide a preliminary assessment of effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the DSPD programme, including the health of those subject to the programme and the potential implications for public safety.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the merits of putting the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder Programme on a statutory footing. [279064]

**Maria Eagle:** There are no plans to change the statutory basis of the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder programme. Patients assessed and treated in the units at Broadmoor and Rampton hospitals are detained under the Mental Health Act. Prisoners assessed and treated in the units at Frankland, Whitemoor and Low Newton prisons are serving sentences of imprisonment.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been treated under the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder Programme in each year since 2001 in *(a)* Broadmoor Hospital, *(b)* Rampton Hospital, *(c)* HMP Whitemoor, *(d)* HMP Frankland and *(e)* HMP/HMYOI Low Newton; and how long the average length of stay in each of those units was. [279065]

**Maria Eagle:** Table 1 shows the average number of offenders subject to the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder programme per financial year.

Table 2 shows the average length of stay as of 31 March 2009. The figures for Low Newton may be unrepresentative as the unit has only been open since September 2007. These data were also available for the four male sites for the previous year (31 March 2008), as shown in Table 3, but not for any site for earlier years.

*Table 1. Average number of offenders subject to the DSPD programme per financial year*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | April to March 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Broadmoor | 8.5 | 9.7 | 13.8 | 23.7 | 30 | 37.8 |
| Rampton | — | 17.2 | 32.8 | 38.8 | 48 | 51 |
| HMP Whitemoor | 32.8 | 45.3 | 58.6 | 62 | 62 | 61.3 |
| HMP Frankland | — | [1]39.1 | 58.6 | 66.6 | 74 | 73.8 |
| HMP Low Newton | — | — | — | — | — | 10 |

[1] As the Frankland unit did not open until June 2004, this average only represents the final 10 months of the financial year.

*Note:*
The Low Newton DSPD unit opened in 2007, however the occupancy data were only available from April 2008 onwards. Data were not available for Rampton or Frankland DSPD units in the earliest financial years as these units were not yet open. The figures for the first four financial years were calculated on the basis of monthly figures. However, from April 2007 onwards data have been collected on a quarterly basis.

*Table 2. Average length of stay for those accepted on the DSPD units as at 31 March 2009*

| Unit | Mean stay (days) | Mean stay (years) |
|---|---|---|
| Broadmoor | 734 | 2.0 |
| Rampton | 910 | 2.5 |
| HMP Frankland | 830 | 2.3 |
| HMP Whitemoor | 1,527 | 4.2 |
| HMP Low Newton | 597 | 1.6 |

*Table 3. Average length of stay for those accepted on the DSPD units as at 31 March 2009*

| Unit | Mean stay (days) | Mean stay (years) |
|---|---|---|
| Broadmoor | 539 | 1.5 |
| Rampton | 750 | 2.1 |
| HMP Frankland | 729 | 2.0 |
| HMP Whitemoor | 1,307 | 3.6 |
| HMP Low Newton | — | — |

## Prisons: Mobile Phones

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mobile telephones were found as a result of searches in prisons in England and Wales in 2008. [279842]

**Maria Eagle:** Prisons in England and Wales are asked to send mobile phones and SIM cards they find to a central unit for analysis. In 2008, 8,062 mobile phones and SIM cards were analysed. This figure includes items discovered within prison perimeters and on entry to establishments.

We believe that this figure may understate the actual number of finds because it does not include items retained by the police for evidential purposes, and because in some instances prisons have not sent items for analysis. NOMS is putting in place new procedures to ensure that we have a more comprehensive picture in future. While the numbers of phones found indicates the scale of the challenge in tackling illicit mobile phones, it is also a reflection of prisons' increasing success in finding them and better reporting.

NOMS is implementing a strategy to minimise the number of phones entering prisons, and to find or disrupt those that do enter. As part of the strategy, prisons are being provided with technologies to strengthen local security and searching strategies, in line with the recommendations in the Blakey report, "Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs into Prisons", published in July 2008. This includes the roll out of BOSS chairs to all prisons, and the deployment of other detection and disruption technologies, including mobile phone signal blockers.

We have also strengthened the law, through the Offender Management Act 2007 (implemented in April 2008), which makes it a criminal offence with a punishment of up to two years' imprisonment to bring an unauthorised mobile phone or component part into a prison.

### Probation Officers: Redundancy

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of Probation Service *(a)* officers and *(b)* other staff in Lancashire who will be made redundant in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [280029]

**Maria Eagle:** Lancashire Probation was awarded trust status with effect from 1 April 2009 and has no plans to make any employees redundant in the current financial year. In terms of future staffing levels the trust will make decisions about both the size and mix of the workforce once budgets are allocated for the financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

### Young Offenders

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people under the age of 21 years were charged with offences after having served a sentence restricted by section 91 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 in each year since 2000. [278923]

**Claire Ward:** The requested information is not available. The data sets compiled by the Ministry of Justice to analyse reoffending by juveniles do not allow for the identification of offenders sentenced to terms of detention under section 91 of the Powers of Criminal Court (Sentencing) Act 2000. Reoffending data for these offenders cannot therefore be produced.

### Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many acts of *(a)* restrictive physical intervention and *(b)* removal from association recorded in respect of those of each (i) sex, (ii) age group and (iii) ethnic group (A) with and (B) without a disability held in each institution in the juvenile secure estate were carried out (1) for purposes of ensuring good order and discipline, (2) to prevent escape from custody, (3) to prevent a child or young person from injuring him or herself or others, (4) to prevent a child or young person from damaging property and (5) to prevent a child or young person from inciting others to break orders, escape, injure themselves or damage property in each month between January 2007 and the latest month for which figures are available. [278457]

**Maria Eagle:** Restraint is only ever to be used by staff as a last resort, when all other approaches have either not succeeded or would not be appropriate.

The data provided in the following tables, for the period April 2008 to March 2009, have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and relate to use of restraint in secure training centres. Central collection of information about the reasons for each restraint began in April 2008. Details of the age, sex and ethnic group of the young person restrained were also collected from that point, but it is not possible to provide a further breakdown, by those categories, of the reasons for restraint, as the Youth Justice Board does not receive the data in that format. Statistics relating to young offender institutions and secure children's homes are not collected in the format requested and obtaining them would require a search through individual records, which could not be carried out without disproportionate cost. The YJB does not collect data on whether or not a young person restrained has a disability, or the requested information about removal from association, and these could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

*Use of restraint for the purpose of ensuring good order and discipline*

| | Rainsbrook | Oakhill | Medway | Hassockfield | STC total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2008 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| May 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| June 2008 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| July 2008 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| August 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| September 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| October 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| November 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| December 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| January 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| February 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| March 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Note:*
In July 2008, the Court of Appeal ruled that restraint could not be used in secure training centres for the purpose of ensuring good order and discipline (Re C v Secretary of State for Justice (2008) EWCA Civ 882)

*Use of restraint for the purpose of preventing escape from custody*

| | Rainsbrook | Oakhill | Medway | Hassockfield | STC total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| May2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| June 2008 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| July 2008 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| August 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| September 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| October 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| November 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| December 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Use of restraint for the purpose of preventing escape from custody*

| | Rainsbrook | Oakhill | Medway | Hassockfield | STC total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| February 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| March 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Use of restraint for the purpose of preventing injury*

| | Rainsbrook | Oakhill | Medway | Hassockfield | STC total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2008 | 34 | 58 | 24 | 31 | 137 |
| May 2008 | 23 | 20 | 21 | 31 | 95 |
| June 2008 | 29 | 25 | 33 | 32 | 119 |
| July 2008 | 21 | 68 | 39 | 42 | 170 |
| August 2008 | 38 | 44 | 25 | 43 | 150 |
| September 2008 | 44 | 27 | 30 | 24 | 125 |
| October 2008 | 37 | 36 | 34 | 36 | 143 |
| November 2008 | 29 | 23 | 20 | 31 | 103 |
| December 2008 | 35 | 27 | 24 | 42 | 128 |
| January 2009 | 52 | 45 | 12 | 29 | 138 |
| February 2009 | 14 | 26 | 40 | 47 | 127 |
| March 2009 | 19 | 26 | 61 | 53 | 159 |

*Use of restraint for the purpose of preventing damage to property*

| | Rainsbrook | Oakhill | Medway | Hassockfield | STC total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2008 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| May 2008 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 14 |
| June 2008 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 13 |
| July 2008 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| August 2008 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 15 |
| September 2008 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 16 | 26 |
| October 2008 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 15 |
| November 2008 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| December 2008 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 14 |
| January 2009 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| February 2009 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 17 |
| March 2009 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 18 | 29 |

*Use of restraint for the purpose of preventing incitement to cause harm or damage property*

| | Rainsbrook | Oakhill | Medway | Hassockfield | STC total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2008 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| May 2008 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| June 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| July 2008 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| August 2008 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| September 2008 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| October 2008 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| November 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| December 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| January 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| February 2009 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| March 2009 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Aung San Suu Kyi

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Burma on Aung San Suu Kyi. [279194]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have regularly called for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, through direct contacts with the regime.

Most recently, our ambassador in Rangoon conveyed to the Burmese authorities our deep concern on receiving news of the arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi on 14 May 2009. Whenever possible, he has attended the trial. In addition, my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill

Rammell), the then Minister of State, raised recent developments in Burma with EU and Asian participants at the EU-Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and Asia-Europe meeting in the region at the end of May. He spoke directly to Burmese foreign ministers to call for her release, and the release of all other political prisoners in Burma.

### Burma: Politics and Government

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Burma on the pro-democracy movement in that country. [279195]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Through the EU and United Nations, and directly with the regime, the UK has regularly called for the elections proposed to be held in Burma to be free and fair. We have made clear our views that unless all political prisoners are released, and democratic opposition and ethnic groups can participate freely in the 2010 elections, they will have no validity or international credibility.

Most recently, my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), the then Minister of State, spoke directly with the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister at the EU-Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Phnom Penh on 27-28 May 2009. He called for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners, and for the start of a genuinely inclusive political process.

### Colombia: Foreign Relations

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next expects to meet his Colombian counterpart to discuss UK-Colombian relations. [279359]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no meetings with the Colombian Foreign Minister scheduled. Our ambassador in Bogota maintains regular contact with senior Colombian Government officials, including the Foreign Minister, to discuss bilateral relations and broader global issues.

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278830]

**Chris Bryant:** The figures for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are as follows:

| | *Invoices paid within 10 days* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| November 2008 | 3,517 | 70.2 |
| December 2008 | 2,693 | 76.3 |
| January 2009 | 3,797 | 73.2 |
| February 2009 | 3,068 | 83.1 |
| March 2009 | 5,585 | 84.8 |
| April 2009 | 4,080 | 78.6 |
| May 2009 | 2,879 | 79.6 |

This information was not collected before November 2008.

The FCO is aware of the importance of paying suppliers promptly, and makes every effort to pay invoices as quickly as possible.

### Departmental Gifts and Endowments

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what gifts his Department has given to members of EU institutions since 2005. [277110]

**Chris Bryant:** None. It is not official policy to give gifts to members of EU institutions and we are not aware of any official gifts being given since 2005.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks of 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on departmental public expenditure, for what reason the administration allocation for the Basra post was reduced from £6,800,947 in 2007-08 to £1,426,582 in 2008-09; what categories of cost are now incurred at this post; and how much staff security at the post cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [276798]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Since 1 April 2008 funds for major contracts in Iraq have been managed from London as this is more cost-effective. The funds managed at post are for local running costs.

The total allocations for London and posts in Iraq Directorate for financial year (FY) 2007-08 were £39.2 million. In FY 2008-09 total allocations reduced to £36.1 million. The decrease in allocation was because of the renegotiation of major contracts, which led to lower costs while maintaining appropriate levels of security for our staff.

Costs incurred at Basra include those for security, transport, medical, catering and other life support costs.

The value of the contracts for security at Basra in 2008-09 was £4.2 million.

### Election observers

**Mr. Bruce George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term observers the UK will provide for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights election observation mission to the Albanian parliamentary elections. [278795]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK will send two long-term observers (7 per cent.) and 20 short-term observers (5 per cent.) to the election observation mission of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for the Albanian parliamentary elections which will be held on Saturday 28 June 2009.

**Mr. Bruce George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1196W, on elections: monitoring, if he will make it his policy that the Government provide no less than 10 per cent. of observers to all election observation missions undertaken by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. [279142]

**Chris Bryant:** Our policy on OSCE election observation missions will continue to be to provide up to 10 per cent. of observers to all election observation missions, on an ad hoc basis.

**Mr. Bruce George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term observers the Government plans to contribute to the election observation mission to the Albanian parliamentary elections organised by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. [279143]

**Chris Bryant:** The UK will send two long-term observers (7 per cent.) and 20 short-term observers (5 per cent.) to the election observation mission of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for the Albanian parliamentary elections which will be held on 28 June 2009.

### Gibraltar

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the designation by the Spanish Government of a maritime conservation area encompassing British Gibraltar territorial waters; under what authority that designation was made; and if he will make a statement. [279059]

**Chris Bryant:** The UK has made written and oral representations at ministerial and official level to the European Commission regarding Commission Decision 2009/95 EC. As the UK is the only member state competent to propose a site covering British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW), we do not recognise the validity of the adopted site. The UK is deeply concerned that Spain should seek to designate an area of BGTW and that the UK was not formally consulted. In our view, the adoption procedures were deficient, and there was a clear lack of transparency and effective consultation involved. We continue to press the Commission to rectify this matter urgently.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Spanish Government on its designation of waters off Gibraltar as a marine conservation area; what assessment he has made of the effect of the designation on *(a)* fishing rights, *(b)* allocation of airspace and *(c)* development rights; and if he will make a statement. [279060]

**Chris Bryant:** Under Commission Decision 2009/95 EC, Spain has put forward a Site of Community Importance under the habitats directive which encompasses British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW). As the UK is the only member state competent to propose a site covering BGTW, we do not recognise the validity of the adopted site and do not consider that the decision allows Spain any rights in BGTW, nor would we accept that it would have any effects in BGTW. The UK is deeply concerned that Spain should seek to designate an area of BGTW and that the UK was not formally consulted. The UK has made written and oral representations to Spain (and to the Commission) at ministerial and official level on this issue and will continue to do so until such time as the issue is resolved.

### India: Tourism

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the behaviour of British tourists in Goa. [278606]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have received no reports about the behaviour of British tourists from the Goan authorities. However, last year 131 British nationals required consular assistance while in Goa.

In response to this, our high commission distributed over 18,000 information booklets direct to British tourists in Goa during the main six-month tourist season last year. They plan a further distribution this year and are hoping to open up further distribution channels to increase this amount.

### Iran: Baha'i Faith

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 45W, on Iran: Baha'i faith, what representations he has made to the Iranian government on the detention of seven Baha'i leaders in Iran since his public statement on 16 February 2009. [279123]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We continue to express our concerns to the Iranian Government regarding the treatment and continued detention of the seven Baha'i leaders.

14 May 2009 marked the one-year anniversary of their arrest and on this date my predecessor as Minister of State, my hon. Friend the member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), issued a press statement in which he urged the Iranian Government to ensure that their lives and rights are protected in accordance with international law.

The EU, with strong UK support, issued a declaration on 25 May 2009 on behalf of all member states, reaffirming our concern for the Baha'i leaders and expressing wider concerns about the increasing violation of religious freedom in Iran.

### Iran: Nuclear power

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the E3+3 on Iran's nuclear programme; what reports he has received on the number of centrifuges in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [278684]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's most recent conversation with US Secretary of State Clinton took place on 3 June 2009 and they discussed Iran, as well as a range of other matters. The Foreign Secretary keeps in regular contact with counterparts from the rest of the E3+3, and the development of the Iranian nuclear programme remains an issue of serious and shared concern. Senior officials from the E3+3 last met on 8 April 2009 and also keep in regular contact.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General's Iran report of 19 February 2009 states that Iran had 5,537 centrifuges installed, of which almost 4,000 were enriching uranium hexafluoride (UF6). We anticipate that the Director General's next report, which will be discussed at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting on 15 June 2009, will show that Iran has continued to develop its enrichment programme, despite five UN Security Council Resolutions requiring it to stop.

### North Africa: al-Qaeda

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the strength of al-Qaeda in North Africa. [279373]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQ-M) represents a significant terrorist threat in north Africa and the Sahara. Exact numbers are unclear, but estimates suggest a strength of around a thousand. AQ-M has the intent and capability to carry out terrorist attacks, including suicide bombings and kidnappings, against both regional and western, including British, interests. AQ-M claimed responsibility for the murder of a British citizen, Edwin Dyer, around 1 June 2009.

### North Korea

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many North Korean officials are subject to a travel ban and assets freeze under the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 (2006). [278635]

**David Miliband:** Three North Korean organisations with links to their country's ballistic missile programme are subject to asset freezes under the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1718, following North Korea's satellite launch on 5 April 2009. No individual officials are currently subject to travel bans or asset freezes. The new UN Security Council Resolution 1874, passed on 12 June 2009, tasks the UN Sanctions Committee to designate further organisations and individuals for travel bans and asset freezes.

### Palestinians

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Palestinian Authority security forces in creating stability in Nablus, Jenin and Hebron. [278688]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Palestinian Authority is making very significant progress in developing the capability and professionalism of its security forces. In particular, the reinforcement of Palestinian Authority security forces in the main urban centres of the West Bank—including Jenin, Nablus and Hebron—has meant that those cities are much safer today than they were a year ago. We support fully the Palestinian Authority's determination to uphold the principle of the legitimate law enforcement agencies having a monopoly on the use of force and its subsequent attempts to control armed militias operating in the West Bank. On the Palestinian side, building a fully effective criminal justice system remains an immediate challenge. On the Israeli side, it is imperative that the Israeli defence forces (IDF) give the Palestinian security forces the space to take full responsibility for the security situation in area A and increasing responsibility for the security situation in area B.

### Sri Lanka: Arms trade

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on alleged sales of military equipment to the Sri Lankan Government since 2006 by the UK and other EU countries in contravention of the 1998 EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports; and if he will make a statement. [278682]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** All UK export licensing decisions relating to Sri Lanka have been consistent with the Consolidated Export Licensing Criteria, and the EU Code of Conduct. All UK licence applications for exports to Sri Lanka have been carefully assessed against the criteria on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the nature of the goods, the end use, and end users, and with full consideration of the prevailing situation. In line with these criteria, any export licence applications that would provoke or prolong the internal conflict or be used for internal repression have been refused.

We cannot comment on exports or licensing decisions made by other countries, including our EU partners. However COARM, the EU Working Group on Conventional Arms in Brussels, provides a forum for discussion of any issues relating to the Code of Conduct. There was such a discussion in June 2008, when an export to Sri Lanka was involved. As a result of these discussions the exporting state revoked a licence that had previously been approved.

### West Bank

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [278639]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Palestinian Authority is making very significant progress in developing the capability and professionalism of its security forces. In particular the reinforcement of Palestinian Authority security forces in the main urban centres of the west bank—including Jenin, Nablus, and Hebron—has meant that those cities are much safer today than they were a year ago. We support fully the Palestinian Authority's determination to uphold the principle of the legitimate law enforcement agencies having a monopoly on the use of force and its subsequent attempts to control armed militias operating in the west bank. On the Palestinian side, building a fully effective criminal justice system remains an immediate

challenge. On the Israeli side, it is imperative that the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) give the Palestinian security forces the space to take full responsibility for the security situation in Area A and increasing responsibility for the security situation in Area B.

### Zimbabwe: Embassies

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2201-02W, on Zimbabwe: embassies, how much the embassy of Zimbabwe owed in business rates on the latest date for which figures are available; and what steps are being taken to ensure that payment of outstanding business rates is made. [279326]

**Chris Bryant:** The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) of HM Revenue and Customs is responsible for billing and collection of national non-domestic rates (NNDR). VOA send quarterly statements to all missions, and we continue to work with the VOA to press all diplomatic missions to pay their NNDR bills.

The embassy of Zimbabwe has not made any NNDR payments in the last five years.

At the end of the financial year 2008-09, the embassy of Zimbabwe owed a total of £79,883 in national non-domestic rates (NNDR). The embassy's NNDR bill for 2009-10 is £13,531.50. We wrote to the embassy of Zimbabwe in March to highlight their outstanding debts and to remind them of their obligation to pay NNDR. We will continue to press them to settle their debts.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Animal Experiments

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the potential effects of the REACH regulations on the numbers of animals required for scientific procedures in the United Kingdom. [278114]

**Dan Norris:** REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) aims to minimise animal testing, and actively promotes the development and use of non-animal alternative test methods. However, it is inevitable that some further animal testing will be necessary in order to fill the many gaps which currently exist in our knowledge of the way chemicals impact on human health and the environment. Animal testing is only allowed as a last resort where no suitable non-animal alternatives exist. REACH prohibits repetition of animal tests once they are completed, and requires the data from them to be shared between everyone wanting to register the same substance.

In October 2006, the European Commission estimated that in the region of between 8 and 13 million additional animals might be used across Europe over the entire REACH registration period. However, we expect that number to be significantly reduced as a result of the additional drivers to reduce the amount of animal testing that were incorporated into the final agreed REACH text in December 2006.



These figures should also be read with caution because of the uncertainty about how many registrations will be made over the next nine years. It is not possible to estimate how many tests might take place in the United Kingdom as there are no restrictions on where any individual company may choose to commission any procedures it needs.

### Climate Change

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277724]

**Dan Norris:** It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings over the next three years. It has, however, been shown in the Stern review on the economics of climate change that timely and well-targeted climate adaptation measures will yield benefits in excess of their costs. Some of these benefits will accrue to Departments as cost-savings over the next three years, with further more significant gains to be made in future years. The main rationale for investment to address climate risk will be to reduce the UK's vulnerability to longer-term climate change impacts.

The Government are undertaking a climate change risk assessment and economic analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament in 2011.

As the hon. Lady is aware, the Government will also be publishing supplementary appraisal guidance this summer. This will help to ensure that adaptation measures are designed and implemented in a cost-effective manner.

### Dairy Farming

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for the Government to underwrite the payments that Dairy Farmers of Britain were due to make to dairy farmers for milk supplied in May 2009. [279908]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I am deeply concerned and saddened by the situation facing farming members and other employees of Dairy Farmers of Britain, following the announcement to call in the receivers (PricewaterhouseCoopers) on 3 June.

Publicly-funded schemes such as those available through Business Link are available to assist SMEs that find themselves in difficulties. Farmers who are in need of business advice should contact Business Link in their region. HMRC's Business Payment Support Service is also available for businesses which are finding it difficult to meet their tax commitments for the sorts of reasons faced by the farmers of Dairy Farmers of Britain.

Ministers have been in discussions with senior industry leaders and officials remain in close contact with the receivers to ensure that those who might need to access these schemes know how to do so.

### Departmental Air Conditioning

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. [272117]

**Dan Norris:** The Department has spent £4,715 on inspection reports required under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272143]

**Dan Norris:** Four of the Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output. All four have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. A copy of the inspection reports will be placed in the Library.

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275203]

**Dan Norris:** These figures are shown in the Department's resource accounts, under the heading 'Payment of Suppliers' in the management report section of the accounts. The accounts, including prior year accounts, can be found on line at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/finance/resource-accounts/index.htm

Figures for the financial year 2008-09 are being compiled currently.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport for his Department's administrative operations *(a)* in total and *(b)* per full-time equivalent member of staff in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [276136]

**Dan Norris:** From information held centrally, the estimate made of the amount of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport for the Department's administrative operations *(a)* in total and *(b)* per full-time equivalent member of staff in 2007-08 was 21,978 metric tonnes and 0.98 metric kg respectively. Information for the period 2006-07 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the levels of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* per full-time equivalent member of staff in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [276137]

**Dan Norris:** From information held centrally, the estimate made of the levels of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in the Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* per full-time equivalent member of staff were:

| | *(a) Total (metric tonnes)* | *(b) Full-time equivalent (metric kg)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 3,077 | 0.127 |
| 2007-08 | 2,549 | 0.114 |

DEFRA in partnership with other Government Departments offset the emissions for official and ministerial air and rail travel through the Government Carbon Offset Fund.

### Departmental Contracts for Services

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274449]

**Dan Norris:** From information held centrally, the core-Department has outsourced in:

2004: IT service provision;

2005: Photo Library, and Landscape editorial and print;

2006: Recruitment and Statutory Notice Advertising, and Shared Central Stakeholder Database;

2007: Print Services; and

2009: Sustainable Built Environment and Workplace Solutions.

Outsourcing is one means of maximising value for money as a major business objective of all Government Departments. Best practice procurement in outsourcing is a central element in achieving this objective.

### Departmental Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278743]

**Dan Norris:** Under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008, DEFRA is required to give a summary report on data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner in our annual resource accounts.

DEFRA has reported on personal data breaches in 2007-08 in our 2008 Departmental Report and this can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/deprep/2008/index.htm

We will be publishing information on personal data security breaches reported to the Information Commissioner for the 2008-09 reporting year before Parliament rises in July. The information is currently being compiled and is to be audited and verified before it is laid before Parliament.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278744]

**Dan Norris:** There have been no staff in the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), or its agencies, who have been disciplined or dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements or (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months from 1 June 2009.

Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework and the Data Handling Report produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Civil Service Management Code sets out the requirements for Departments to have procedures in place to deal with conduct and disciplinary issues. DEFRA's procedures are laid down in the staff handbook which all staff can access via the Department's intranet. Before being permitted to access DEFRA's IT systems all users are required to read and agree to a personal commitment statement. This outlines the requirements to follow the Department's security policies which are held on the intranet, including those which relate to the use of e-mail and the internet.

If staff are found to have been responsible for a serious breach of data security procedures, dependent upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

## Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on salaries for communications and press officers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last five years. [276272]

**Dan Norris:** Details of how much the Department (including Executive Agencies) spent on salaries for communications and press officers, where information is available, is illustrated in the table at *(a)*.

The position in relation to the Department's non-departmental public bodies is outlined at *(b)*.

*(a) Details of the spend on salaries for press/communications officers in DEFRA (including Executive Agencies) over the last five years:*

£000

| Department/Agency | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Core-DEFRA[1] | 1,230 | 1,616 | 1,436 | 1,256 | 892 |
| Animal Health (AH)[2] | — | — | — | — | — |
| Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA)[3] | — | — | — | 36 | 42 |
| Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)[4] | — | — | — | — | — |
| Rural Payments Agency (RPA)[5] | — | — | 506 | 1,039 | 818 |
| Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) | 21 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 56 |
| Centre for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Science (CEFAS) | 27 | 28 | 31 | 32 | 34 |
| The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA)[6] | — | — | — | — | — |

[1] The figures for Core-DEFRA, exclude costs relating to agency staff, contractors and consultants.
[2] Details are not held centrally and Animal Health have indicated could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
[3] The Marine and Fisheries Agency was created on 1 October 2005. No information is available for 2004-05 at all, as there was no communications/press officer provision in the Agency or for 2005-06 and 2006-07. A dedicated senior information officer joined MFA on 12 May 2007.
[4] The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) do not have any dedicated communications or press staff. Any comms work is carried out on behalf of VMD, by Core-DEFRA's press office, on an ad-hoc basis.
[5] The Communications Directorate in the Rural Payments Agency was only set up in November 2006, a fact that is reflected in the figures. Figures for earlier years are not held in a form that is readily accessible and consequently, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The figures quoted include both the costs of employing both permanent staff and contractor/consultancy staff over the respective periods.
[6] The new Food and Environment Research Agency, which was created on 1 April 2009, does not specifically employ press or communications officers. Instead they route all of the press queries that they receive through the Core-DEFRA press office.

*(b) Details of the spend on salaries for press/communications officers in DEFRA's NDPBs:*

This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Marketing

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in each of the last five years. [277157]

**Dan Norris:** The following table shows how much DEFRA has spent on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in the last five years.

| Type | April 2004 to March 2005 | April 2005 to March 2006 | April 2006 to March 2007 | April 2007 to March 2008 | April 2008 to March 2009 | £ Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dailies | 28,076 | — | — | — | 139,392 | 167,468 |
| Weeklies | 7,984 | — | — | — | 24,431 | 32,415 |
| Total | 36,060 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 163,823 | 199,883 |

The increase in spend in the last financial year (April 2008 to March 2009) correlated with the start of our major consumer-facing campaign, Act on $CO_2$..

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274506]

**Dan Norris:** The core-Department's financial system category codes record the following expenditure on conferences and events services.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 2,216,948.09 |
| 2007-08 | 2,237,045.29 |

Information before this date could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The core-Department's financial system has no category code for banqueting services.

### Departmental Pay

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff employed in London on work contracted out by his Department earn less than £7.45 per hour. [274948]

**Dan Norris** *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* From information held centrally, there are no staff employed in London on work contracted out by the Department earning less than £7.45 per hour.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bonuses were paid to staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last five years; and how much was paid in each case. [276271]

**Dan Norris:** The following table shows the figures requested for DEFRA and its Executive Agencies. Due to system changes, data prior to 2005-06 for Core DEFRA are available only at disproportionate cost. Data for non departmental public bodies are not held centrally and also can only be made available at disproportionate cost.

| | | DEFRA | VLA | CEFAS | RPA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | Total value (£) | — | 30,777 | 321,000 | 323,567 |
| | Number of bonuses | — | 133 | 490 | 525 |
| 2005-06 | Total value (£) | 3,361,065 | 35,034 | 482,000 | 249,025 |
| | Number of bonuses | 4,368 | 148 | 479 | 541 |
| 2006-07 | Total value (£) | 3,171,792 | 39,120 | 566,766 | 243,072 |
| | Number of bonuses | 2,569 | 162 | 543 | 480 |
| 2007-08 | Total value (£) | 3,235,664 | 45,327 | 610,125 | 425,417 |
| | Number of bonuses | 2,100 | 180 | 567 | 812 |
| 2008-09 | Total value (£) | 3,036,270 | 47,409 | 773,747 | 542,289 |
| | Number of bonuses | 2,014 | 195 | 410 | 1,125 |

For DEFRA, the data cover staff in the core Department and those Executive Agencies covered by DEFRA terms and conditions at that time, as well as staff who transferred to DECC on 3 October 2008.

Non-consolidated performance related variable pay is used to reward excellent performance during the year and is based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. Performance related pay schemes encourage high attainment because bonuses have to be earned each year. They help drive high performance in Departments and agencies and support better public service delivery.

*For the SCS:*

Non-consolidated performance related variable pay rewards in-year performances in relation to agreed objectives, or short term personal contribution to wider organisational objectives. Such payments are paid in addition to base pay increases and do not count towards pension.

Performance related variable pay is allocated by Departments from a 'pot' expressed as a percentage of the SCS salary bill, which is agreed centrally each year following the Senior Salaries Review Body recommendations. The intention is that such payment decisions should be differentiated in order to recognise the most significant deliverers of in-year performance.

*For staff at Grade 6 and below:*

The performance related variable pay scheme introduced in April 2005 provides staff in DEFRA and those Agencies covered by the core- Department's reward arrangements, with recognition and reward for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance that significantly exceeds normal expectations. The process should provide staff at all grades with an opportunity to earn such an award, and ensure that achievements in operational, policy and corporate services areas are recognised as being of equal esteem. Such payments are paid in addition to base pay increases and do not count towards pension.

There are two types of award:

In-year payments, paid to individuals or teams in recognition of one-off achievements during the year; and

Annual payments that, in 2007 and 2008, were paid to the top 10 per cent. of performers for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance sustained throughout the whole year..

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [277358]

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275256]

**Dan Norris:** The following table summarises the requested figures for DEFRA and its Executive agencies.

| | *DEFRA* | *RPA* | *VLA* | *CEFAS* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amount spent on end-year non-consolidated performance payments (£) | 2,433,775 | 475,721 | 84,069 | 773,747 |
| Amount spent on non-consolidated performance payments for the SCS only (£) | 1,300,592 | 34,371 | 36,660 | 32,500 |
| Number of staff (grade 6 and below) who received an end-of-year non-consolidated performance payment | 490 | 565 | 195 | 4 |
| Number of SCS staff who received a non-consolidated performance payment | 134 | 2 | 3 | 494 |

The data for DEFRA cover staff in the core Department and those organisations under DEFRA terms and conditions, including Animal Health, the Marine Fisheries Agency, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and those staff who transferred to DECC on 3 October 2008.

The total pay bill for DEFRA was £194.147 million, of which 1.25 per cent. was used for end-on-year non-consolidated performance payments to staff (including the SCS). The median payments were £8,500 for SCS and £2,056 for non-SCS staff.

The total pay bill for the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) was £98.8 million, of which 0.48 per cent. was used for end-on-year non-consolidated performance payments to staff (including the SCS).

The total pay bill for the Veterinary Laboratories Agencies (VLA) was £40.363 million, of which 0.21 per cent. was used for end-on-year non-consolidated performance payments to staff (including the SCS). The median payments were £12,000 for SCS and £207.99 for non-SCS staff.

The total pay bill for the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) was £15.547 million, of which 4.8 per cent. was used for end-on-year non-consolidated performance payments to staff (including the SCS). The mean payments were £8,125 for SCS and £1,500 for non-SCS staff.

Non-consolidated performance related variable pay is used to reward excellent performance during the year and are based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. Performance related pay schemes encourage high attainment because bonuses have to be earned each year. They help drive high performance in Departments and agencies and support better public service delivery.

*For the SCS*

Non-consolidated performance related variable pay rewards in-year performance in relation to agreed objectives, or short term personal contribution to wider organisational objectives. Such payments are paid in addition to base pay increases and do not count towards pension.

Performance related variable pay is allocated by Departments from a 'pot' expressed as a percentage of the SCS salary bill, which is agreed centrally each year following the Senior Salaries Review Body recommendations. The intention is that such payment decisions should be differentiated in order to recognise the most significant deliverers of in-year performance.

**Departmental Responsibilities**

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in establishing a natural hazards team; and if he will make a statement. [278293]

**Dan Norris:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister with responsibility for marine and natural environment (Huw Irranca-Davies) on 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 335W.

**Departmental Security**

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many breaches of security have been reported at *(a)* Animal Health, *(b)* the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, *(c)* the Central Science Laboratory, *(d)* the Government Decontamination Service, *(e)* the Marine and Fisheries Agency, *(f)* the Rural Payments Agency, *(g)* the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and *(h)* the Veterinary Medicines Directorate in the last five years; and what procedures each agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data.. [276956]

**Dan Norris:** In the last five years, the DEFRA agencies listed have reported a total of 104 separate breaches related to losses of electronic equipment and security passes. They did not involve the loss of any personal or protectively marked data.

My Department and its Executive agencies are required to report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the ICO. Information on personal data security breaches is published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

### Departmental Stationery

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274202]

**Dan Norris:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The only data available for expenditure on recycled office supplies are for paper products inclusive of office paper, envelopes and card. Core-DEFRA spent the following amounts on 100 per cent. recycled paper.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 114,000 |
| 2007-08 | 99,500 |
| 2008-09 | 92,200 |

In comparison, expenditure on virgin paper products for these financial years was £9,000, £7,500 and £3,800 respectively.

Data from 2005-06 and 2004-05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*(b)* DEFRA outsourced IT service provision to IBM in 2004. Due to the way in which this contract is structured, the figures provided as follows (based on paid invoices) include toner cartridge expenditure for the core-Department as well as the following Executive agencies and NDPBs which receive services from IBM under the e-nabling contract (core-DEFRA, Marine Fisheries Agency, Natural England, Animal Health Agency, Government Decontamination Service, Gangmasters Licensing Authority, Commission for Rural Communities, Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution).

*Toner spend*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 724,023.82 |
| 2006-07 | 653,354.08 |
| 2007-08 | 826,387.29 |
| 2008-09 | 594,313.55 |

Data for 2004-05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275346]

**Dan Norris:** The only data available centrally for expenditure on recycled office supplies are for paper products inclusive of office paper, envelopes and card. Core-DEFRA spent the following amounts on 100 per cent. recycled paper products:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 114,000 |
| 2007-08 | 99,500 |
| 2008-09 | 92,200 |

In comparison, expenditure on virgin paper products for these financial years was £9,000, £7,500 and £3,800 respectively.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279400]

**Dan Norris:** Special advisers receive training as appropriate to enable them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers".

### Departmental Work Experience

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274486]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA has offered 45 university students and 105 graduates work placements over the last five years. We do not keep data on any work placements offered to students between 14 and 18 years old.

The following table provides the breakdown of the numbers over this period.

| | *Type of candidate* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *University students* | *Graduates* |
| 2005 | 13 | 23 |
| 2006 | 12 | 17 |
| 2007 | 10 | 28 |
| 2008 | 5 | 22 |
| 2009 | 5 | 15 |
| Total | 45 | 105 |

### Domestic Waste: Recycling

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 841W, on domestic waste: recycling, for what reason *(a)* recycling credits relate only to waste collected in the local authority area and *(b)* landfill credits may relate to waste collected in other local authority areas. [270193]

**Dan Norris** *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* The purpose of the recycling credits scheme is to pass on to recyclers the savings their recycling made in disposal and collection costs that would have been incurred by the authority. This means the party doing the recycling is paid by the authority where the waste originated.

The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme is now called the Landfill Communities Fund. It is a voluntary scheme whereby landfill site operators can only claim tax (landfill tax) credits for 90 per cent. of contributions (up to 6 per cent. of their annual landfill tax liability) they make to environmental organisations in support of environmental and community projects. One of the aims of the scheme is to redress some of the disadvantages for those living within close vicinity of a landfill site. The scheme is regulated by Entrust and overseen by HM Revenue and Customs.

### Fisheries: Environment Protection

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the locations are of the six environmentally responsible fishing schemes; and when he expects to publish the results of the pilot scheme. [278889]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Environmentally Responsible Fishing pilot scheme is running in three locations: Hartlepool, Lowestoft and the Thames Estuary, with a total of 31 participating vessels. They are operating under an EC derogation from quota rules for fishing vessels engaging in scientific research (Article 2.2 of Council Regulation No 40/2008).

The pilot scheme is due to finish collecting data in August 2009. It has generated a considerable amount of important data which are being processed and analysed by our project partners CEFAS (Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) and Seafish. Following completion of this process we anticipate a review will be published towards the end of the year.

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which individuals and organisations are participating in the Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries project. [278890]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA has recently established the Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries (SAIF) Project. The project aims to develop a strategy for long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability in the English inshore fishing fleet. There are a wide range of stakeholders involved in the project, including individual fishermen using small vessels, those involved in larger under 10 metre commercial operations and others with an interest in fisheries and community regeneration issues.

An advisory group has been established to support the work of the project, chaired by Alan Riddell, a former Director for the Department for Communities and Local Government. Alan brings considerable experience of leading regional development and community sustainability. These are issues which are inextricably linked to what we are trying to achieve through SAIF—a thriving and sustainable fishing industry in the future.

I am delighted that the following individuals have agreed to sit on the panel:

John Nichols - Fisherman and Member of the New Under Tens Fisherman's Association (NUTFA)

Phil Walsh- NUTFA

Gary Hodgson - Fisherman

Alison Austin - Head of Environmental Affairs, Sainsburys

Cindy Cahill - Deloitte Consulting

Steve Colclough - Environment Agency

Giles Bartlett-World Wildlife Fund

Alan McCulla - Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Association

Stefan Glinski - Fisherman

Tom Pickerell - National Shellfish Association of Great Britain

Tim Dapling - Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee

Hazel Curtis - Chief Economist, Seafish Industry Authority (SEAFISH)

Spike Searle - South West Food and Drink Federation

David Stevens - Fisherman

The first meeting of the group will take place on 16 June. I look forward to working closely with the group and the project's wide range of stakeholders over the coming months.

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the terms of reference of the Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries project are. [278891]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries (SAIF) Project has been established to develop a strategy for long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability in the English inshore fishing fleet. The project has three phases, expected to run over the next 12-18 months:

Phase 1—bringing together existing ongoing research into the economic, environmental and social impacts of the fleet. New research will also be commissioned to fill evidence gaps.

Phase 2—development and appraisal of policy options based upon the findings of commissioned research and input from the advisory group and other stakeholders.

Phase 3—selecting preferred policy options and working closely with delivery partners to refine and implement our policies.

The project is supported by an advisory group which will feed into the policy development process, supporting the Minister and officials over the coming months. The group will consider the evidence base and provide views and perspectives on policy proposals as they develop and evolve, particularly with regard to their practical/delivery dimension. Their knowledge and experience will be key to enabling them to provide innovative ideas to tackle the problems facing the fleet, and inform long-term decisions.

The first meeting of the advisory group will be held on 16 June 2009.

### Fishing Vessels

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the members are of each Under 10-Metre Fleet Regional Advisory Council. [278888]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** There are seven regional advisory councils (RACs) that cover all sea areas of the EU and the activities of those vessels that fish outside EU waters. The purpose of the RACs is to provide stakeholders' advice to the Commission and member states on any

aspect of fisheries management under the common fisheries policy (CFP). Representatives of the under 10 metre fleet are free to attend meetings of RACs and are eligible to apply to become members of the councils themselves.

### Fly Tipping

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions for fly-tipping were *(a)* brought and *(b)* successful in 2007-08; and what proportion of reported fly-tipping incidents in that year this represented in each case. [279874]

**Dan Norris:** In 2007-08, English local authorities and the Environment Agency reported 1,285,300 fly-tipping incidents on the Flycapture system ranging from single black bags to "significant multiple loads".

1,966 prosecutions were taken against fly-tippers in 2007-08 which represents 0.15 per cent. of the incidents reported. 1,863 (95 per cent.) of these prosecutions were successful.

Prosecution figures are only for cases taken through the court system and do not reflect the full range of enforcement actions available to local authorities.

In 2007-08 local authorities took an additional 179,122 enforcement actions against fly-tippers, consisting of warning letters, statutory notices, fixed penalty notices, formal cautions and injunctions.

### Hazardous Substances: Oldbury

**Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Rattlechain chemical waste lagoon in Oldbury was last inspected by the Environment Agency; and what percentage of the waste in the lagoon was identified as yellow phosphorus in that inspection. [R] [278063]

**Dan Norris:** The Environment Agency last inspected the Rattlechain chemical waste lagoon in Oldbury on 7 April 2009.

It is not possible to determine during an inspection the percentage of yellow phosphorus in the deposited waste. Much of the deposits are historic and underwater.

The site closed in March 2006. Analysis indicates a level of phosphorus in deposited calcium phosphate sludge to be in the order of 0.01 per cent.

**Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions have taken place between the Environment Agency and representatives of Rhodia, Oldbury on the future of wildlife at the Rattlechain chemical waste lagoon. [278064]

**Dan Norris:** The Environment Agency has had ongoing discussions with representatives of Rhodia on the future of the Rattlechain chemical waste lagoon and its associated wildlife since closure as an operational site in March 2006. The waste management licence for the site is, however, still in force and therefore Rhodia is still required to monitor and secure it.

The Environment Agency is currently discussing with Rhodia what would be required if the company were to surrender the licence.

### Hogweed

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to classify hogweed as a notifiable weed. [279295]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* We have no plans to make either the native hogweed or the invasive non-native giant hogweed "notifiable" weeds.

The Weeds Act 1959 is a consolidation of earlier legislation concerned with commercial food production. The five weeds covered by the 1959 Act are common ragwort, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock and broad-leaved dock. Common ragwort is poisonous to animals, in particular horses. The others, if allowed to spread, compete with and suppress grass and crop plants.

The five weeds covered by the 1959 Act are not "notifiable" as such and there is no obligation to report their presence to anyone. Complaints about the spread of any of the five weeds will only be investigated on receipt of a properly completed complaint form in accordance with the procedures set out on DEFRA's website.

The giant hogweed is listed in schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is therefore an offence to introduce it to the wild without a licence.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the spread of hogweed on soil fertility. [279296]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* No assessments have been made for either the native hogweed or the invasive non-native giant hogweed. While some invasive non-native species are known to affect soil chemistry to prejudice any competing plants, giant hogweed is not believed to have such properties.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to inform the public about the potential health hazards of coming into contact with hogweed. [279297]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* As part of implementing the Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain, we have been producing a suite of identification sheets on key invasive non-native species. These are published on the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat website at:

www.nonnativespecies.org

The sheet on giant hogweed clearly advises of the health hazard from contact with its sap. DEFRA also supported the development of the recent CIRIA (construction industry research and information association) guide 'Invasive species management for infrastructure managers and the construction industry' which advises

of the hazard associated with giant hogweed. There are numerous other publications and sources of advice that identify this hazard.

### Litter: Smoking

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce smoking-related litter. [277809]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA funds Keep Britain Tidy (formerly known as ENCAMS) to carry out the annual Local Environment Quality Survey of England. The results for the seventh survey were published in March 2009 and are available on the Keep Britain Tidy website at:

www.keepbritaintidy.org

Smokers' materials remain, by far, the most prevalent item, being present on 78 per cent. of all sites visited. (The survey records only the incidence—that is to say the percentage of sites—where each type of litter occurs; it does not attempt to record the volume.)

Dropping any smoking-related litter is an offence under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. A person found guilty of the litter offence may be fined up to £2,500 in a magistrates court, or, as an alternative to prosecution, issued with an on the spot fixed penalty notice of between £50 and £80. Litter can blight neighbourhoods and the minority who choose to drop it on the ground, rather than put it in a bin, have no excuse for their behaviour.

Through its funding of Keep Britain Tidy, the Government support behavioural change and awareness changing campaigns, as well as providing guidance to local authorities.

### Marine Management Organisation: Manpower

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of staff of the Marine and Fisheries Agency have agreed to transfer to the Marine Management Organisation headquarters in Tyneside. [278885]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** We will expect to know final numbers of MFA staff moving to the new headquarters once the relocation decision making exercise is completed. There will be a recruitment exercise to fill any vacancies created by the MFA headquarters relocation.

Subject to the passage of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill the new HQ will then form the headquarters of the Marine Management Organisation.

### National Poultry Register

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information is stored on the national poultry register. [279084]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Great Britain Poultry Register continues to take and update registrations of premises with 50 birds or over. We encourage premises with less than 50 birds to register on a voluntary basis.

Applicants must provide their personal details, their county parish holding number (if applicable), the number and species of poultry that are usually on the premises, the type of housing provided for the birds and the purpose for which the birds are being reared. Applicants are also asked for some essential information that can assist risk assessment, for example, whether the poultry have access to the open air or whether there are bodies of water close by that attract wild birds.

Applicants must also provide information regarding the number of workers in day to day contact with birds. This information is used by the Health Protection Agency to provide vaccination to workers in the event of an Avian Influenza outbreak.

### Pets: Vaccination

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on the vaccination of animals kept as pets. [278267]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Under the Pet Travel Scheme, pets (principally dogs and cats) from certain 'listed countries' can enter the UK without spending time in quarantine if they have been identified using a microchip, vaccinated against rabies and blood tested to ensure that the vaccination has been effective. Pets from 'listed countries' can enter and move freely within the UK six months after a successful blood test, as long as they meet certain other tick and tapeworm-treatment requirements.

Similarly, UK pets can travel to member states of the EU and return to the UK provided they have received appropriate rabies vaccination and have met the other requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme.

There are no other statutory requirements for owners to vaccinate their pets in the UK. However, under the Animal Welfare Act, all pet owners have a responsibility in relation to the health of their pets and we endorse the recommendations of the British Veterinary Association (BVA) for an appropriate vaccination programme to protect pets in the UK from a range of diseases. We strongly encourage anyone responsible for a pet to discuss their pet's necessary vaccinations and other health needs with their veterinary surgeon.

A BVA guide, "Best of Care", is available free of charge for people looking to take on the responsibility of pet ownership. This guide can be downloaded on the BVA website.

### Poaching

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many instances of poaching in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England have been reported to his Department in each of the last five years. [278323]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA does not record this information. However, partly in response to reports of poaching received by the National Wildlife Crime Unit through police forces, poaching is one of the UK wildlife crime priorities for 2009 and measures to tackle it have been stepped up. If DEFRA received reports of poaching,

either the information would be passed to the police, or the person reporting the activity would be advised to contact the police.

### Rabbits

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of regulations governing the welfare of farmed rabbits; and if he will make a statement; [278065]

(2) what recent research his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* evaluated on the rabbit farming industry; [278066]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to increase the minimum requirements for space allowed to farmed rabbits. [278067]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The welfare of farmed rabbits is adequately provided for by way of the general provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007, which has a specific schedule relating to rabbit welfare. DEFRA also has a welfare code for rabbits which provides good husbandry advice, which producers have by law to be familiar with and have access to.

DEFRA has not carried out any recent research on what is a relatively small rabbit farming industry.

The Council of Europe's Convention on the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes is currently developing recommendations for the welfare of farmed rabbits, which will include provision for space allowances.

### Recycling: Drinks

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a national deposit and return scheme for drinks containers. [277808]

**Dan Norris:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy), that the then Minister of State, gave to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 759W.

### Recycling: Supermarkets

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings representatives from his Department have had with supermarkets to discuss recycling in the last 12 months. [279907]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA has met with a number of supermarkets over the past 12 months to discuss the recycling of packaging. As part of the development of the packaging strategy, DEFRA held two stakeholder workshops last year which were attended by supermarkets as well as other industries involved in the packaging chain. In addition to this, supermarkets are represented on both the Advisory Committee on Packaging and the Packaging Recycling Action Group, which discuss a range of issues concerning packaging and packaging waste.

DEFRA has also met with supermarkets to discuss recycling in general on two occasions over the last 12 months.

### Renewable Energy: Waste

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of amending section 1.1 of the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007 to *(a)* take into account the Court of Appeal ruling in the OSS Group *v.* Environment Agency case and *(b)* to ensure that used cooking oil that has obtained an End of Waste classification from the Environment Agency is treated as a virgin oil; and if he will make a statement. [276189]

**Dan Norris:** The question of whether any particular waste has been fully recovered and has ceased to be waste must be determined on the facts of the case and taking into account relevant case law on the definition of waste. The Environment Agency is responsible for the implementation of waste management controls in England and Wales. However, schedule 1, part 2, section 1.1 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 applies to fuel manufactured from waste regardless of whether the waste from which it has been manufactured has been fully recovered and has ceased to be waste.

This section was contained in predecessor regulations dating back to the last decade. No assessment of its impact specifically on used cooking oil has been carried out. DEFRA has no plans to change this section of the regulations.

### Sheep

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of sheep in England in each year since 1997. [279294]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The number of sheep (including lambs) in England since 1997 can be found in the following table.

| | *Total sheep and lambs* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 19,464,635 |
| 1998 | 20,175,458 |
| 1999 | 20,273,586 |
| 2000 | 19,144,345 |
| 2001 | 16,139,534 |
| 2002 | 15,396,793 |
| 2003 | 15,704,438 |
| 2004 | 15,872,915 |
| 2005 | 15,877,451 |
| 2006 | 15,673,409 |
| 2007 | 15,436,577 |
| 2008 | 15,535,215 |

*Source:*
June 2008 Agricultural and Horticultural Survey

### Trapping

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the practice of snaring; and if he will make a statement. [277991]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government consider that where there is a need for wildlife management then the proper use of snares is one of a range of control methods. Used according to best practice, snares can be an effective and practical means of wildlife management and are needed where other forms of pest control are ineffective or impractical. Self-locking snares have been banned for over 20 years and continue to be so.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 contains strong protection for animals under the control of man to help prevent unnecessary suffering including any animal held in a snare.

The "Defra Code of Good Practice on the use of Snares in Fox and Rabbit Control in England", published in 2005 details the legal obligations for people using snares in England and provides guidance on responsible use.

DEFRA commissioned a research project, beginning on 1 February 2008, to determine the extent of use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales. The project aims to provide a more informed basis for future discussions and policy decisions on snares.

### Trees: Merseyside

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated for the preservation of trees in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997. [278901]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I have been asked to reply.

Local planning authorities are responsible for making and administering tree preservation orders. Funding for this function is contained in the revenue support grant and is not ring-fenced. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Water Charges: Voluntary Organisations

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued to Ofwat on surface water drainage charges for *(a)* voluntary, *(b)* religious, *(c)* sporting and *(d)* not-for-profit organisations. [280023]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Government issued guidance to Ofwat in 2000 on delivering the Government's objectives in the Water Industry Act 1999. This included guidance on surface water drainage charges. A copy is available in the Library of the House.

### Water: East of England

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated to reducing water consumption in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [278847]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA does not provide direct funding to reduce water consumption in specific areas. However, the Department is supporting a media campaign to be launched this summer that will encourage water efficiency under the Act on $CO_2$ banner. In addition, DEFRA has funded research to support the aims of the Water Saving Group, including work on developing the evidence base for water efficiency projects, improving water efficiency in new buildings, and introducing water efficiency targets. To encourage resource efficiency in business, DEFRA jointly runs the enhanced capital allowance (ECA) scheme for water efficient technologies which provides accelerated tax relief to businesses investing in designated water saving technologies.

### World Oceans Day

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what events his Department *(a)* supported and *(b)* participated in relating to World Oceans Day on 8 June 2009. [279468]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** On World Oceans Day, the Marine and Coastal Access Bill had its Third Reading in the House of Lords. This Bill is a ground-breaking piece of legislation that aims to deliver a change in the way the UK manages its marine resources, and sets an excellent example to other nations. The Department also supports numerous events relating to our seas throughout the year.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Members: Allowances

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Leader of the House what external *(a)* legal and *(b)* accountancy advice her Office has sought on the operation of the Members' Allowances scheme in the last six years. [278994]

**Barbara Keeley:** The Office of the Leader of the House has taken no external legal or accountancy advice on this subject and has no plans to do so.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* debates and *(b)* votes there have been in the House on the subject of hon. Members' allowances since 1983. [279139]

**Barbara Keeley:** It is not possible to provide an answer without incurring a disproportionate cost.

### Parliamentary Procedure

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Leader of the House what the *(a)* date, *(b)* time and *(c)* number voting in each lobby was in each division which took place after 11pm in each Session (i) from 1983-84 to 1997-98 and (ii) since 1999-2000. [279127]

**Barbara Keeley:** It is not possible to provide an answer without incurring a disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Leader of the House how many speeches were given by each of the 30 hon. and right hon. Members who delivered the most speeches in the Chamber in Session *(a)* 1983-84, *(b)* 1987-88, *(c)* 1991-92, *(d)* 1997-98, *(e)* 2001-02, *(f)* 2005-06 and *(g)* 2008-09. [279137]

**Barbara Keeley:** It is not possible to provide an answer without incurring a disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Leader of the House what the *(a)* average hour of rising of the House, *(b)* number of divisions, *(c)* number of public bills (i) passed and (ii) reported from Standing or Public Bill Committee, *(d)* number of affirmative statutory instruments (A) debated in Standing Committee and (B) debated on the Floor of the House, *(e)* number of prayers against statutory instruments (1) debated in Standing Committee and (2) debated on the Floor of the House, *(f)* number of Opposition days and *(g)* number of Bills guillotined or programmed was in the first 100 sitting days of Session (u) 1983-84, (v) 1984-85, (w) 1997-98, (x) 1998-99, (y) 2005-06 and (z) 2006-07. [279140]

**Barbara Keeley:** It has not been possible to source all of the information requested as this would incur disproportionate cost. However I am able to provide the following information:

| | *1983-84* | *1984-85* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Average hour of rising of the House | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *(b)* Number of divisions | n/a | 307 | 380 | 323 | 343 | 221 |
| *(c)* Number of public Bills | 178 | 153 | 209 | 144 | 174 | 129 |
| *(c)* (i) Number of public Bills passed | 73 | 75 | 62 | 99 | 57 | 33 |
| *(c)* (ii) Number of public Bills reported from Standing or Public Bill Committee | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *(d)* Number of affirmative SIs | n/a | n/a | 225 | 178 | 271 | 223 |
| *(d)* (A) Number of affirmative SIs debated in Standing Committee | n/a | n/a | 168 | 149 | 241 | 186 |
| *(d)* (B) Number of affirmative SIs debated on the floor of the House | n/a | n/a | 30 | 21 | 19 | 10 |
| *(e)* Number of prayers against SIs | n/a | n/a | 300 | 51 | 41 | 17 |
| *(e)* (1) Number of prayers against SIs debated in Standing Committee | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *(e)* (2) Number of prayers against SIs debated on the floor of the House | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *(f)* Number of opposition days | 23 | 28 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 20 |
| *(g)* Number of Bills guillotined or programmed within first 100 days of Session | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | n/a | n/a |

## Private Members Bills

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Leader of the House which Private Members' Bills have been referred to a Second Reading Committee in each Session since 1988-89. [279141]

**Barbara Keeley:** The Raoul Wallenberg (Memorial) Bill in the 1989-90 Session is the only example of a Private Member's Bill which has been referred to a second Reading Committee since the 1988-89 Session.

# HEALTH

## Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women seeking an abortion in England gave addresses in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* the Republic of Ireland, *(c)* the State of Israel, *(d)* Malta and *(e)* Poland in 2008. [279044]

**Gillian Merron:** Information can be found in 'Abortion Statistics, England and Wales, 2008', in Table 12a. The document has been placed in the Library. In England and Wales, in 2008, there were 1,173 abortions for residents of Northern Ireland, 4,600 for residents of the Republic of Ireland, 38 for residents of Malta and 30 for residents of Poland. There were less than five (between 0 and four) abortions for residents of Israel.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed under the Abortion Act 1967 in each year since 1991; and how many and what percentage were performed *(a)* to save the life of the mother and *(b)* where the child would have been seriously disabled in each such year. [279069]

**Gillian Merron:** The information is shown in the following table.

*Abortions by grounds[1], residents, England and Wales, 1991-2008*

| | *Section 1(4)* | *Section 1(1)(c)* | | *Section 1(1)(d)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | *Total* | *Percentage* | *Total* | *Percentage* | *Total all abortions* |
| 1991 | 5 | 375 | 0.2 | 1,710 | 1.0 | 167,376 |
| 1992 | 2 | 254 | 0.2 | 1,802 | 1.1 | 160,501 |
| 1993 | 3 | 163 | 0.1 | 1,935 | 1.2 | 157,846 |
| 1994 | 1 | 146 | 0.1 | 1,796 | 1.1 | 156,539 |

*Abortions by grounds[1], residents, England and Wales, 1991-2008*

| | Section 1(4) | Section 1(1)(c) | | Section 1(1)(d) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Total | Percentage | Total | Percentage | Total all abortions |
| 1995 | 0 | 126 | 0.1 | 1,823 | 1.2 | 154,315 |
| 1996 | 3 | 128 | 0.1 | 1,929 | 1.1 | 167,916 |
| 1997 | 4 | 117 | 0.1 | 1,853 | 1.1 | 170,145 |
| 1998 | 2 | 106 | 0.1 | 1,830 | 1.0 | 177,871 |
| 1999 | 1 | 94 | 0.1 | 1,813 | 1.0 | 173,701 |
| 2000 | 3 | 134 | 0.1 | 1,833 | 1.0 | 175,542 |
| 2001 | 0 | 61 | 0.0 | 1,722 | 1.0 | 176,364 |
| 2002 | 1 | 116 | 0.1 | 1,894 | 1.1 | 175,932 |
| 2003 | [2]— | [3]137 | 0.1 | 1,941 | 1.1 | 181,582 |
| 2004 | [2]— | [3]128 | 0.1 | 1,894 | 1.0 | 185,415 |
| 2005 | [2]— | [3]128 | 0.1 | 1,916 | 1.0 | 186,416 |
| 2006 | [2]— | 149 | 0.1 | [3]2,036 | 1.1 | 193,737 |
| 2007 | [2]— | 112 | 0.1 | [3]1,939 | 1.0 | 198,499 |
| 2008 | [2]— | 51 | 0.0 | [3]1,988 | 1.0 | 195,296 |
| Total | 25 | [3]2,525 | 0.1 | [3]33,654 | 1.1 | 3,154,993 |

[1] Grounds under the Abortion Act 1967:
Section 1(4) that the termination is immediately necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.
Section 1(1)(c) that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated; or
Section 1(1)(d): that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped
[2] Suppressed value less than 10 (0 to 9 cases). Data suppressed for reasons of confidentiality, in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).
[3] Total includes very small numbers less than 10 (0 to 9) where suppressed elsewhere.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the abortion rate per 1,000 women aged *(a)* 19, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 17, *(d)* 16, *(e)* 15, *(f)* 14 and *(g)* under 14 years was in 2007-08; and what forecast he has made of the rate in each of the next 10 years. [279070]

**Gillian Merron:** The information is shown in the following table.

The reasons women seek an abortion are complex and may be subject to a number of different factors. The 2008 abortion statistics show a decrease in the number of abortions performed in younger women. The Government invested £26.8 million in 2008-09 and will be investing £20.5 million in 2009-10 to improve women's access to contraception and help reduce the number of abortions, repeat abortions and teenage pregnancies.

*Abortion rates by age under 20, England and Wales, residents, 2007 and 2008*

| | Abortion rate per 1,000 women | |
|---|---|---|
| Age | 2007 | 2008 |
| 19 | 36 | 36 |
| 18 | 32 | 33 |
| 17 | 27 | 27 |
| 16 | 19 | 18 |
| 15 | 9 | 9 |
| 14 | 3 | 3 |
| under 14 | n/a | n/a |

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 10 primary care organisations had the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest abortion rates in England per 1,000 women aged (i) under 16, (ii) 17, (iii) 18, (iv) 19, (v) 20 and (vi) 21 years in 2008. [279078]

**Gillian Merron:** The information is shown in the following table.

*Highest and lowest abortion rates by primary care organisation and age, England, 2008*

| Age rate | Primary care organisation | Rate per 1,000 women |
|---|---|---|
| *Under 16*[1] | England | 4 |
| | *Lowest rates* | |
| | Kingston | [2]— |
| | Tower Hamlets | [2]— |
| | Richmond and Twickenham | [2]— |
| | Harrow | [2]— |
| | West Hertfordshire | 2 |
| | North Yorkshire and York | 2 |
| | Devon | 2 |
| | Berkshire West | 2 |
| | Cambridgeshire | 2 |
| | Somerset | 2 |
| | *Highest rates* | |
| | Torbay | 8 |
| | Barnsley | 8 |
| | Lambeth | 8 |
| | Lewisham | 8 |
| | Darlington | 8 |
| | Islington | 8 |
| | Rotherham | 8 |
| | Manchester | 9 |
| | Greenwich Teaching | 11 |
| | Southwark | 11 |
| *16 years* | England | 18 |
| | *Lowest rates* | |
| | North Somerset | 9 |
| | Berkshire West | 9 |
| | Lincolnshire | 9 |

*Highest and lowest abortion rates by primary care organisation and age, England, 2008*

| *Age rate* | *Primary care organisation* | *Rate per 1,000 women* |
|---|---|---|
| | Harrow | 10 |
| | Cambridgeshire | 10 |
| | Mid Essex | 10 |
| | Berkshire East | 10 |
| | Redcar and Cleveland | 11 |
| | Derbyshire County | 11 |
| | West Hertfordshire | 11 |
| | *Highest rates* | |
| | Darlington | 30 |
| | Havering | 31 |
| | Islington | 31 |
| | Coventry Teaching | 31 |
| | City and Hackney Teaching | 32 |
| | Southwark | 34 |
| | Camden | 36 |
| | Torbay | 37 |
| | Lambeth | 37 |
| | Lewisham | 40 |
| *17 years* | England | 27 |
| | *Lowest rates* | |
| | Isle of Wight NHS | 12 |
| | Cambridgeshire | 14 |
| | Suffolk | 15 |
| | Surrey | 16 |
| | Oxfordshire | 17 |
| | West Hertfordshire | 18 |
| | North Somerset | 18 |
| | North Lincolnshire | 18 |
| | Bath and North East Somerset | 18 |
| | Buckinghamshire | 18 |
| | *Highest rates* | |
| | Croydon | 47 |
| | City and Hackney Teaching | 47 |
| | Barking and Dagenham | 47 |
| | Torbay | 49 |
| | Waltham Forest | 50 |
| | Haringey Teaching | 50 |
| | Coventry Teaching | 51 |
| | Lewisham | 53 |
| | Southwark | 53 |
| | Lambeth | 54 |
| *18 years* | England | 33 |
| | *Lowest rates* | |
| | Oxfordshire | 18 |
| | Redcar and Cleveland | 19 |
| | North Lancashire Teaching | 19 |
| | Isle of Wight NHS | 21 |

*Highest and lowest abortion rates by primary care organisation and age, England, 2008*

| *Age rate* | *Primary care organisation* | *Rate per 1,000 women* |
|---|---|---|
| | Dorset | 21 |
| | Worcestershire | 22 |
| | Gloucestershire | 22 |
| | Bath and North East Somerset | 22 |
| | Northumberland | 23 |
| | Wiltshire | 23 |
| | *Highest rates* | |
| | Croydon | 52 |
| | Coventry Teaching | 54 |
| | Waltham Forest | 58 |
| | Enfield | 58 |
| | Haringey Teaching | 63 |
| | Lambeth | 65 |
| | Greenwich Teaching | 68 |
| | Lewisham | 69 |
| | Barking and Dagenham | 71 |
| | Southwark | 89 |
| *19 years* | England | 34 |
| | *Lowest rates* | |
| | Bath and North East Somerset | 16 |
| | Oxfordshire | 19 |
| | County Durham | 19 |
| | Cambridgeshire | 19 |
| | Nottingham City | 21 |
| | North Lancashire Teaching | 21 |
| | Devon | 21 |
| | East Riding of Yorkshire | 22 |
| | Newcastle | 23 |
| | Plymouth Teaching | 24 |
| | *Highest rates* | |
| | Newham | 57 |
| | Havering | 61 |
| | Enfield | 64 |
| | Greenwich Teaching | 67 |
| | Croydon | 68 |
| | Lewisham | 70 |
| | Barking and Dagenham | 72 |
| | Southwark | 72 |
| | Waltham Forest | 73 |
| | Lambeth | 90 |
| *20 years* | England | 36 |
| | *Lowest rates* | |
| | Cambridgeshire | 17 |
| | South Tyneside | 18 |
| | County Durham | 18 |
| | Nottingham City | 19 |
| | Newcastle | 20 |

*Highest and lowest abortion rates by primary care organisation and age, England, 2008*

| *Age rate* | *Primary care organisation* | *Rate per 1,000 women* |
|---|---|---|
| | Plymouth Teaching | 20 |
| | Bath and North East Somerset | 20 |
| | North Lancashire Teaching | 21 |
| | Devon | 22 |
| | North Staffordshire | 22 |
| | *Highest rates* | |
| | Lewisham | 63 |
| | Southwark | 63 |
| | Waltham Forest | 66 |
| | Croydon | 67 |
| | Haringey Teaching | 67 |
| | Enfield | 67 |
| | Brent Teaching | 69 |
| | Hammersmith and Fulham | 70 |
| | Barking and Dagenham | 79 |
| | Lambeth | 91 |
| *21 years* | England | 34 |
| | *Lowest rates* | |
| | Oxfordshire | 14 |
| | South Tyneside | 15 |
| | Bath and North East Somerset | 16 |
| | Bristol | 17 |
| | Cambridgeshire | 18 |

*Highest and lowest abortion rates by primary care organisation and age, England, 2008*

| *Age rate* | *Primary care organisation* | *Rate per 1,000 women* |
|---|---|---|
| | Devon | 18 |
| | North Lancashire Teaching | 18 |
| | Norfolk | 19 |
| | North East Essex | 20 |
| | County Durham | 20 |
| | *Highest rates* | |
| | Croydon | 63 |
| | Brent Teaching | 63 |
| | Lewisham | 63 |
| | Enfield | 64 |
| | Waltham Forest | 68 |
| | Southwark | 72 |
| | City and Hackney Teaching | 73 |
| | Haringey Teaching | 74 |
| | Barking and Dagenham | 78 |
| | Lambeth | 86 |

[1] Rates for under 16s are based on populations aged 13-15.
[2] Suppressed value where rate is based on a total less than 10
*Note:*
Rates for PCOs are based on 2007 mid year population estimates.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 10 primary care organisations had the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest abortion rates in England per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years in 2007. [279079]

**Gillian Merron:** Information for 2007 is shown in the following table.

*Highest and lowest abortion rates by primary care organisation, England, 2007*

| | | *Age standardised rate per 1,000 women resident, aged 15-44*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| | England | 18.8 |
| *Lowest rates* | | |
| 5PP | Cambridgeshire | 11 |
| 5ND | County Durham | 12 |
| 5NF | North Lancashire Teaching | 12 |
| 5FL | Bath and North East Somerset | 13 |
| 5PW | North East Essex | 13 |
| 5QE | Oxfordshire | 13 |
| 5NW | East Riding of Yorkshire | 13 |
| 5PT | Suffolk | 13 |
| 5NV | North Yorkshire and York | 13 |
| 5PH | North Staffordshire | 13 |
| *Highest rates* | | |
| 5C9 | Haringey Teaching | 32 |
| 5K9 | Croydon | 33 |
| 5K5 | Brent Teaching | 35 |
| 5A8 | Greenwich Teaching | 35 |
| 5NC | Waltham Forest | 36 |
| 5C3 | City and Hackney Teaching | 36 |
| 5LF | Lewisham | 37 |
| 5LD | Lambeth | 39 |
| 5C2 | Barking and Dagenham | 40 |
| 5LE | Southwark | 41 |

[1] Rates for PCOs are based on 2006 mid-year population estimates.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 830-32W, on abortion, what the characteristics were of the statistically most likely candidate in *(a)* England and *(b)* each health authority for an abortion in 2008 in terms of (i) the marital status of the woman, (ii) the age of the woman, (iii) the gestation of the pregnancy, (iv) the number of previous children borne by the woman, (v) the number of previous abortions undergone by the woman and (vi) the legal grounds under which the abortion was performed. [279122]

**Gillian Merron:** The information is shown in the following table.

*Most common[1] conditions for women having abortions in 2008, by strategic health authority of residence*

| | Marital status | Age | Gestation (weeks) | Number of previous children | Number of previous abortions | Ground |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | Single with partner | 20 | 7 | 0 | 0 | C |
| East Midlands | Single with partner | 20 | 8 | 0 | 0 | C |
| East of England | Single with partner | 18 | 8 | 0 | 0 | C |
| London | Single with partner | 24 | 7 | 0 | 0 | C |
| North East | Single with partner | 19 | 7 | 0 | 0 | C |
| North West | Single no partner | 20 | 6 | 0 | 0 | C |
| South Central | Single with partner | 20 | 7 | 0 | 0 | C |
| South East Coast | Single with partner | 19 | 7 | 0 | 0 | C |
| South West | Single with partner | 20 | 8 | 0 | 0 | C |
| West Midlands | Single no partner | 21 | 7 | 0 | 0 | C |
| Yorkshire and Humber | Single with partner | 20 | 8 | 0 | 0 | C |

[1] Statistical mode (highest frequency).

*Note:*
Ground C: that the pregnancy has not exceeded its 24th week and that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

## Abortion: Essex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were performed in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex in 2008, broken down by (i) age of the women, (ii) grounds of the abortion and (iii) gestation of the pregnancy. [279045]

**Gillian Merron:** The information is shown in the following tables.

*Abortions for residents of Essex primary care trusts (PCTs)[1] by age, ground and gestation, 2008*

| Age | South East Essex | North East Essex | Mid Essex | South West Essex | West Essex | Total Essex PCTs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 16 | 24 | 16 | 19 | 36 | 15 | 110 |
| 16 | 37 | 25 | 24 | 54 | 34 | 174 |
| 17 | 53 | 38 | 55 | 60 | 45 | 251 |
| 18 | 61 | 57 | 70 | 95 | 79 | 362 |
| 19 | 71 | 54 | 57 | 103 | 72 | 357 |
| 20 | 68 | 56 | 52 | 83 | 58 | 317 |
| 21 | 66 | 45 | 49 | 107 | 71 | 338 |
| 22 | 59 | 46 | 43 | 102 | 47 | 297 |
| 23 | 55 | 39 | 46 | 89 | 48 | 277 |
| 24 | 43 | 40 | 54 | 79 | 54 | 270 |
| 25 | 50 | 34 | 37 | 65 | 40 | 226 |
| 26 | 38 | 35 | 24 | 70 | 39 | 206 |
| 27 | 40 | 25 | 45 | 77 | 46 | 233 |
| 28 | 41 | 28 | 29 | 74 | 46 | 218 |
| 29 | 33 | 18 | 27 | 61 | 33 | 172 |
| 30 | 37 | 20 | 26 | 61 | 38 | 182 |
| 31 | 28 | 21 | 35 | 33 | 34 | 151 |
| 32 | 28 | 18 | 22 | 44 | 32 | 144 |
| 33 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 57 | 33 | 166 |
| 34 | 38 | 17 | 26 | 42 | 21 | 144 |
| 35 | 36 | 23 | 29 | 34 | 29 | 151 |
| 36 | 22 | 14 | 26 | 32 | 37 | 131 |
| 37 | 24 | 17 | 19 | 30 | 29 | 119 |
| 38 and over | 71 | 48 | 93 | 123 | 107 | 442 |
| Total | 1,048 | 760 | 932 | 1,611 | 1,087 | 5,438 |

| Grounds[2] | South East Essex | North East Essex | Mid Essex | South West Essex | West Essex | Total Essex PCTs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Section 1(1)(a) | 1,038 | [3]— | 903 | [3]— | 890 | 5,188 |

| Grounds[2] | South East Essex | North East Essex | Mid Essex | South West Essex | West Essex | Total Essex PCTs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Section 1(1)(d) | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 42 |
| Other grounds | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 208 |
| Total | 1,048 | 760 | 932 | 1,611 | 1,087 | 5,438 |

| Gestation weeks | South East Essex | North East Essex | Mid Essex | South West Essex | West Essex | Total Essex PCTs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 6 | 120 | 35 | 130 | 223 | 187 | 695 |
| 6 | 186 | 55 | 170 | 293 | 211 | 915 |
| 7 | 237 | 127 | 164 | 363 | 204 | 1095 |
| 8 | 171 | 181 | 183 | 253 | 116 | 904 |
| 9 | 107 | 128 | 83 | 159 | 114 | 591 |
| 10 | 74 | 78 | 76 | 112 | 90 | 430 |
| 11 | 46 | 49 | 32 | 49 | 39 | 215 |
| 12 | 34 | 22 | 20 | 36 | 33 | 145 |
| 13 | 15 | 19 | 15 | 36 | 29 | 114 |
| 14 and over | 58 | 66 | 59 | 87 | 64 | 334 |
| Total | 1,048 | 760 | 932 | 1,611 | 1,087 | 5,438 |

[1] Information about residents of Southend is contained within South East Essex PCT and is not collected separately.
[2] Section 1(1)(a):
that the pregnancy has not exceeded its 24th week and that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman or any existing children of her family,
Section 1(1)(d):
that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.
Other grounds:
Section 1(1)(b):
that the termination is necessary to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman,
Section 1(1)(c):
that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated,
Section 1(4):
that the termination is immediately necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.
[3] Suppressed total less than 10 (between 0 and 9) or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value.

## Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each strategic health authority area were admitted to hospital with *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis of alcohol-related disease in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08. [278486]

**Gillian Merron:** The number in the following tables relate to admissions, rather than people.

There are two columns for each year—admissions with a primary alcohol-related diagnosis and all alcohol-related admissions. The information is normally published in this way. The information in the second column is intended as a meaningful estimate of the total impact on hospital admissions from alcohol consumption.

Because of a change of methodology, information is only available from 2002-03 to 2007-08.

*Number of finished admissions of patients with an alcohol-related condition*

| | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residents in England | With alcohol-related primary diagnosis | Total (with primary or secondary diagnosis) | With alcohol-related primary diagnosis | Total (with primary or secondary diagnosis) | With alcohol-related primary diagnosis | Total (with primary or secondary diagnosis) |
| North East | 9,559 | 34,013 | 10,086 | 38,284 | 10,491 | 43,919 |
| Northwest | 23,731 | 92,339 | 25,331 | 102,841 | 26,329 | 114,946 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 15,236 | 56,131 | 15,759 | 61,421 | 16,057 | 66,684 |
| East Midlands | 12,081 | 47,789 | 12,767 | 51,871 | 13,467 | 56,928 |
| West Midlands | 15,896 | 46,610 | 17,392 | 53,562 | 19,113 | 63,692 |
| East of England | 12,496 | 49,754 | 13,596 | 56,430 | 14,538 | 63,472 |
| London | 18,298 | 56,852 | 19,616 | 64,140 | 21,162 | 74,522 |
| South East Coast SHA | 10,197 | 38,509 | 10,269 | 41,722 | 11,303 | 46,802 |
| South Central SHA | 8,352 | 27,338 | 8,898 | 31,513 | 9,732 | 36,032 |
| Southwest | 13,943 | 55,559 | 15,043 | 62,269 | 15,736 | 70,278 |
| No fixed abode/ unknown | 1,930 | 5,279 | 1,823 | 5,364 | 2,314 | 6,908 |
| Total | 141,718 | 510,173 | 150,580 | 569,417 | 160,241 | 644,185 |

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residents in England | With alcohol-related primary diagnosis | Total (with primary or secondary diagnosis) | With alcohol-related primary diagnosis | Total (with primary or secondary diagnosis) | With alcohol-related primary diagnosis | Total (with primary or secondary diagnosis) |
| North East | 10,731 | 50,579 | 10,983 | 55,510 | 10,674 | 60,755 |

| Residents in England | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | With alcohol-related primary diagnosis | Total (with primary or secondary diagnosis) | With alcohol-related primary diagnosis | Total (with primary or secondary diagnosis) | With alcohol-related primary diagnosis | Total (with primary or secondary diagnosis) |
| Northwest | 29,172 | 129,919 | 30,376 | 141,493 | 31,335 | 151,428 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 17,255 | 72,870 | 17,271 | 77,454 | 17,987 | 83,443 |
| East Midlands | 14,800 | 62,722 | 15,451 | 67,710 | 15,390 | 74,340 |
| West Midlands | 20,645 | 76,778 | 22,590 | 88,490 | 20,101 | 91,537 |
| East of England | 15,530 | 72,622 | 15,836 | 77,808 | 16,435 | 84,712 |
| London | 23,050 | 87,428 | 24,154 | 96,194 | 23,836 | 102,029 |
| South East Coast SHA | 12,022 | 54,833 | 12,603 | 60,074 | 13,274 | 66,025 |
| South Central SHA | 10,503 | 41,219 | 9,972 | 41,889 | 10,588 | 48,201 |
| Southwest | 16,851 | 77,755 | 17,384 | 83,415 | 17,920 | 88,394 |
| No fixed abode/ unknown | 3,074 | 8,787 | 3,062 | 9,082 | 3,805 | 12,400 |
| Total | 173,633 | 735.512 | 179,681 | 799,120 | 181,345 | 863,264 |

*Notes:*
Includes activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
*Small numbers*
To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.
*Alcohol-related admissions*
The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more of the following alcohol-specific conditions were listed:
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (142.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)
*Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis*
These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
*Ungrossed data*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
*Finished admission episodes*
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
*Primary diagnosis*
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
*Secondary diagnosis*
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
*Data quality*
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
*Assessing growth through time*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
*Assignment of Episodes to Years*
Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## Barking Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust on debt collection agencies in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [279081]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this directly with Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foreign nationals who have not provided payment to the NHS towards the cost of their treatment have had children treated in *(a)* NHS trusts in England and *(b)* Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust in each of the last five years. [279082]

**Ann Keen:** It is not possible to provide the information requested. Successive governments have not required the national health service to provide statistics on the number of foreign nationals seen, treated or charged under the provisions of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, nor any costs involved.

The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this directly with Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust to obtain data from that trust.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold discussions with representatives from the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust on payments owed to the Trust by foreign nationals. [279083]

**Ann Keen:** The recovery of payment owed to national health service trusts by foreign nationals for treatment provided to them is a matter for the individual trust. The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, set out the criteria for eligibility for free NHS hospital care. It is the legal responsibility of all hospital trusts to ensure that the eligibility of all patients seeking treatment is confirmed and, if they are not eligible for free healthcare, that the appropriate charges for treatment are levied and subsequently recovered. The Department has provided comprehensive guidance on implementation of the charging regulations to help the NHS to discharge their responsibilities.

### Blood: Contamination

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have *(a)* died and *(b)* contracted sepsis as a result of receiving bacterially contaminated transfused blood products in the last five years. [277379]

**Gillian Merron:** Data on adverse reactions from blood products are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), as for any medicinal product. MHRA has received no reports of infection arising from bacterial contamination of transfused blood products during the past five years.

### Christie Hospital Manchester: Bank Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has made to the Financial Services Compensation scheme on behalf of the Christie Hospital. [279266]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** None.

### Dental Services: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [279061]

**Ann Keen:** The numbers of national health service dentists, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006. Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Annex G contains information by parliamentary constituency.

This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08 report. Information is provided by SHA and by PCT but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Further work is currently being undertaken to determine whether the new definition used under the new dental contractual arrangements can be applied to the years under the old contractual arrangements to produce a consistent time series.

Both sets of published figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

### Hospitals: Admissions

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated at Class 1 accident and emergency units in each of the last 10 years. [278678]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information is not collected on the number of patients treated at accident and emergency (A&E) departments. However, data on the number of attendances at A&E type 1 departments are available and published quarterly via the Department of Health's Quarterly Monitoring Accident and Emergency Services dataset. This includes patients who attended A&E but who were not subsequently treated and counts each attendance by the same patient separately.

### Hospitals: Learning Disability

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with a learning disability were *(a)* admitted to hospital and *(b)* treated by hospital out-patient services in each of the last five years. [279208]

**Phil Hope:** The Department does not hold these data centrally. However, the Government have given priority to access to health care for those with learning disabilities as stated in "Valuing People Now", which was published in January 2009. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

## Medical Treatments

**Frank Cook:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on its proposed review of guidance No. 152 on drug-eluting coronary stents; and if he will make a statement. [279443]

**Gillian Merron:** No such discussions have taken place. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has recently consulted on its plans to review its guidance on drug-eluting stents for the treatment of coronary artery disease. As a stakeholder, the Department has responded to that consultation. It is understood that NICE is considering the responses to its consultation exercise and will make a decision on the proposed review in due course.

## Mental Health Services

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of personality disorder placements made in 2008-09 were *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector placements; and what the cost was of each category of placement; [278942]

(2) what the process is for monitoring the effectiveness of personality disorder placements in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector; what his most recent assessment is of that effectiveness in each case; and on what evidence he bases that assessment. [278943]

**Phil Hope:** Information is not collected by the Department on the proportion or cost of personality disorder placements made in the private sector. Decisions on funding these clinical treatments are made by local and regional specialised commissioning groups and all placements and local service provision is funded through the patient's primary care trust (PCT).

Information is not collected centrally on the effectiveness of personality disorder placements commissioned by PCTs from the private sector. The national Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder (DSPD) programme is currently developing models of intervention in the national health service and National Offender Management Service. This programme is undertaking several research and evaluation projects, two of which are expected to deliver their results at the end of 2009.

Earlier evaluations in respect of other personality disorder/DSPD service developments were set out in the Department's 2003 guidance for NHS trusts, "Personality Disorder—No Longer a Diagnosis of Exclusion". This guidance has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the potential for allowing the use of a range of therapies for psychotherapy treatments for depression; and for what reasons guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence restrict such treatments to cognitive behavioural therapy; [279836]

(2) what forms of psychotherapy treatment for depression were considered by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence as baselines to its guidance in psychotherapy treatments other than randomised controlled trials. [279837]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has made no such assessment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline "Depression: Management of Depression in Primary and Secondary Care", published in 2004, identifies cognitive behavioural therapy as one of the principal treatments for depression but also recommends a number of other therapies for use alongside it, including counselling, interpersonal therapy and couples or family therapy.

NICE is currently reviewing this guidance and expects to publish an updated version in September 2009.

NICE'S guidance is based on a thorough assessment of the available evidence and is subject to public consultation during its development. Full information on this clinical guideline is available on the NICE website at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG23

## Mental Health Services: Hospital Beds

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 505W, on mental health services, whether the 3,159 average daily number of available beds in secure units in England includes privately provided beds. [280069]

**Phil Hope:** The data on average number of available beds in secure units in England are for beds in national health service units only and do not include beds provided by the independent sector.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 505W, on mental health services, what the average daily number of available beds in all secure units in England was in each of the last five years. [280070]

**Phil Hope:** Data on the average daily number of mental health secure unit beds, and learning disability secure unit beds in national health service units in England over the last five years are set out in the following table.

*Average daily number of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds in NHS units*

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Available mental illness | 2,064 | 2,569 | 2,696 | 2,807 | 2,993 |
| Occupancy mental illness | 1,867 | 2,378 | 2,472 | 2,545 | 2,722 |
| Available learning disability | 508 | 514 | 503 | 526 | 516 |
| Occupancy learning disability | 482 | 470 | 484 | 502 | 489 |

*Note:*
The definitions of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds, for the purposes of the KH03 annual beds collection, are: *Mental illness—Other ages, secure unit* an Age Group Intended of National Code 8 "Any age", a Broad Patient Group Code of National Code 5 "Patients with mental illness" and a Clinical Care Intensity of National Code 51 "for intensive care: specially designated ward for patients needing containment and more intensive management. This is not to be confused with intensive nursing where a patient may require one to one nursing while on a standard ward". *Learning disabilities—Other ages, secure unit* an Age Group Intended of National Code 8 "Any age", a Broad Patient Group Code of National Code 6 "Patients with learning difficulties" and a Clinical Care Intensity of National Code 61 "designated or interim secure unit".
*Source:*
Department of Health Dataset KH03(1).

These figures do not represent the full level of secure services available to the NHS. Some low secure mental health services are not consistently defined and may well fall outside the definitions used for this data collection. These figures also show only NHS beds in NHS units and not those commissioned by the NHS and provided by independent sector providers.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 505W, on mental health services, which 10 mental health hospitals had the highest average bed occupancy levels. [280071]

**Phil Hope:** This information is not collected centrally. Information is collected by the Department on average daily bed numbers within individual national health service trusts, but not on average bed occupancy levels within trusts.

### Mental Health Services: Males

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to prepare and publish a strategy for male mental health. [279971]

**Phil Hope:** The Government are fully committed to improving men's mental health services through the Gender Equality and Women's Mental Health Programme, within the National Mental Health Development Unit (NMHDU).

NMHDU has commissioned a scoping exercise to identify the specific mental health needs of men. From this a new programme will emerge, addressing men's mental health issues and the direction for further work.

### NHS: Debts

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much bad debt has cost NHS foundation trusts in each year since 2004-05. [278487]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We are advised by the chairman of Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts, that bad debt as an operating expense is reported in the Consolidated Accounts for NHS Foundation Trusts. This report is produced annually by Monitor and laid before Parliament. Copies of each report are available from Monitor's website:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/

A summary of available figures on bad debt is set out in the following table.

| | *Number of foundation trusts* | *Operating expenses: bad debt (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 25 | 8.9 |
| 2005-06 | 32 | 28.1 |
| 2006-07 | 59 | 21.5 |
| 2007-08 | 89 | 17.4 |
| Total | — | 75.9 |

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what requirements there are upon *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Government to hold equity equivalent to the debt of NHS trusts; [279201]

(2) what methodology his Department uses to account for the *(a)* actual and *(b)* potential debt of NHS trusts and foundation trusts. [279481]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** All debt owed to the Department by a national health service trust or NHS foundation trust is recorded as assets on the Department's balance sheet equal to the liability in the NHS trust accounts.

Where the debt owed to the Department is in the form of a loan this is further disclosed in notes to the Department's accounts.

### Primary Care Trusts

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to primary care trusts under his Department's Express Local Improvement Finance Trust programme; and if he will make a statement. [279932]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** No specific additional funding has been allocated to primary care trusts under the Department's Express Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) programme.

The Department invested £210 million of enabling capital funding in the first four waves of the original LIFT programme to assist primary care trusts and local authorities with the costs of appointing long-term partners from the private sector.

The Express LIFT framework has been designed, through the careful pre-selection and approval of the Express LIFT framework partners, to reduce the time and cost for primary care trusts in appointing LIFT partners. This has eliminated the need for any further allocation of enabling funds for the formation of any future LIFT partnerships.

### Social Services: Illegal Immigrants

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reports of care providers employing illegal immigrants have been received by the *(a)* Commission for Social Care Inspection and *(b)* Care Quality Commission in each year since its establishment; how many such reports have been investigated; and how many illegal immigrants have been found to be working in the care sector by each commission as a result of such investigations to date. [279215]

**Phil Hope:** We are informed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that it does not routinely collect information about the number of illegal workers in care services and that no estimates of the numbers of such workers have been made.

CQC is responsible for regulating and inspecting care services against statutory regulations and national minimum standards—as was its predecessor, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), until 1 April 2009. If care services are not meeting these requirements, including those in relation to recruitment and staffing, CQC may take enforcement action against them.

However, CQC has no specific responsibilities regarding immigration and is not responsible for prosecuting employers in relation to immigration offences. This is the responsibility of the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA).

CSCI agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UKBA in December 2008. The purpose of the MoU was to facilitate co-operation, communication and co-ordination between CSCI and UKBA, to help ensure regulated adult social care services comply with immigration law and best recruitment practice to safeguard the best interests of people who use care services.

Discussions to develop a MoU between the UKBA and CQC are ongoing. The working arrangements set out in the existing MoU will continue until this is agreed.

## Sugar

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the contribution that can be made to public health by reducing the amount of extrinsic sugars in foods and beverages; and if he will make a statement; [278944]

(2) when he expects the Food Standards Agency to consult the public on the next steps in the Saturated Fat and Energy Intake Programme; and whether that consultation will include options for reducing the amount of extrinsic sugar in food and beverages. [278945]

**Gillian Merron:** The Food Standards Agency has lead responsibility for taking forward the work with industry to reduce consumption of, and levels of, sugar in food, including drinks with added sugar.

This work supports the cross-Government obesity strategy—Healthy Weight Healthy Lives—which encourages industry to reduce the level of sugar in foods to help consumers balance the calories they consume with their needs.

The agency will be publishing its consultation on voluntary recommendations for action by the food industry to reduce levels of saturated fat, added sugar and portion size for key foods and drink within the next couple of months. These recommendations include sugar reductions for soft drinks, which have been part of discussions with the soft drinks industry. A Cabinet Office report on food, published in January 2008, estimated that a reduction in calories from added sugar to within public health recommendations could potentially avert 3,500 deaths per year.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in achieving targets for reducing the incidence of childhood obesity; and what steps he is taking to increase *(a)* availability to and *(b)* uptake by children of reduced sugar versions of beverages and foods. [278946]

**Gillian Merron:** The most recent data in the Health Survey for England showed that the estimated prevalence of obesity among children 2-10 years was 15.4 per cent. in 2007. The NHS Information Centre have indicated that the trend in the prevalence of childhood obesity may have begun to level out over the last two to three years. Confirmation of this change will require at least one more year's data.

The Food Standards Agency's Saturated Fat and Energy Intake Programme encompasses work to reduce consumption of, and levels of, sugar in food and drink. As part of this, the agency will shortly consult on voluntary recommendations for action by the industry to reduce added sugar in soft drinks.

The Government have also launched the Change4Life campaign which provides messages on reducing intake of added sugar.

Further work to limit sugar intake in children is being taken forward by the School Food Trust, e.g. providing healthier foods in vending machines and the introduction of nutrient based standards for school lunches. In addition, Ofcom has restricted the broadcast advertising of foods high in fat, salt, and sugar during children's programmes and programmes of particular appeal to children up to the age of 16.

## Tobacco

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has provided to other Government Departments on their dealings with the tobacco industry under the guidelines of Article 5.3 of the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. [278993]

**Gillian Merron:** The Secretary of State for Health wrote to the Prime Minster on 1 May 2009, to draw the attention of all Government Departments to the set of guidelines under article 5.3, which concerns Government engagement with the tobacco industry.

Article 5.3 states that:

"In setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law."

A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

## Tobacco: Sales

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consult the National Federation of Retail Newsagents on the provisions contained in Part 3 of the Health Bill [*Lords*]. [278303]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department's policy has always been to consult interested stakeholders. This includes consultation on tobacco policy and legislation.

The National Federation of Retail Newsagents provided a consultation response to the 'Consultation on the future of tobacco control' which was reflected in the report on that consultation, which considered the legislation on prohibiting tobacco displays.

The National Federation of Retail Newsagents met Baroness Thornton during the passage of the Health Bill through the House of Lords and are setting a date to meet departmental officials during the passage of the Bill through the House of Commons.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions: Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the carbon dioxide emissions arising from the continuous operation of *(a)* televisions and *(b)* other electrical goods in electrical goods outlets. [279043]

**Dan Norris:** I have been asked to reply.

No such estimate has been made by DEFRA. The Department holds no information on carbon dioxide emissions from televisions and other electrical goods displayed in shops.

### Carbon Emissions: Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of implications for his Department's policies of the definition of zero-carbon used in proposed new buildings standards approved by the European Parliament. [278279]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* An assessment has not been made of the amendments recently proposed by the European Parliament to the recast of the energy performance of buildings directive. The European Commission is considering the amendments and will adopt a position on them shortly. We will assess the implications of the position adopted by the Commission at that stage.

We are currently preparing a consultation document on the recast of the energy performance of buildings directive which is scheduled for publication in July 2009.

### Eaga

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments his Department and its predecessors have made to Eaga for providing benefits advice in each of the last five years. [256919]

**Joan Ruddock:** Payments for this provision form part of the contract between the Department and Eaga and, as such, are commercially sensitive.

### Energy Saving Trust

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 523W, on the Energy Saving Trust, how his Department monitors the annual performance of the Energy Saving Trust; and on what basis the Trust's estimates of annual and lifetime carbon dioxide savings are calculated. [264844]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Energy Saving Trust proposes an annual programme of work aimed at reducing domestic $CO_2$ emissions, which is grant funded by DECC. The trust reports to DECC on a quarterly basis on the progress of the work, including achievements against a number of key performance indicators.

The Energy Saving Trust undertakes evaluations to assess impact across the range of activities for its main audiences. The evaluations employ rigorous methodologies involving both quantitative and qualitative surveys of target audiences (e.g. consumers), developed with independent evaluation consultancies to determine influence on annual and lifetime $CO_2$ emissions.

Quantitative evaluation activity takes the form of impact assessments that aim to identify the $CO_2$ savings attributable to Energy Saving Trust activity and the cost of these savings. Impact assessments are undertaken through specifically designed evaluation surveys of a representative sample of audience members to identify actions that have been undertaken as a result of the trust's programme activities. The assessments of $CO_2$ savings are aligned with values used for Government policies (e.g. CERT for energy efficiency measures) wherever possible.

The above evaluation is supported by qualitative evaluation, the objective of which is to ensure that the trust understands how impacts have been achieved. Lessons learned are then fed into the planning and development of any future activity.

### Energy: Prices

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the effect on the average annual household energy bill of the operation of *(a)* the climate change levy and climate change agreements, *(b)* the renewables obligation, *(c)* the energy efficiency commitment/carbon emissions reduction target, *(d)* the EU emissions trading scheme and *(e)* other environmental mechanisms in each of the last three years. [278404]

**Joan Ruddock:** DECC's analysis estimates that the benefits to the UK of our main measures to help avert climate change could outweigh the costs by more than 10 times. Where these measures lead to an international climate agreement consistent with delivering a 450ppm stabilisation of greenhouse gas atmospheric concentrations, we estimate the total benefits at £241.9 billion. This compares with total costs of £20.6 billion. The Impact Assessment can be found at:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/carbon_budgets/carbon_budgets.aspx

Of current average electricity bills for medium-sized household consumers, approximately 12 to 14 per cent. is attributable to climate change legislation (the Renewables Obligation, the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target).

For domestic gas consumers, DECC estimates costs of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target on average gas bills at approximately 2 per cent. However the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target supports energy efficiency measures for households and so will deliver over time an overall saving greater than its total cost to consumers.

The Climate Change Levy and Climate Change Agreements apply to businesses, not to households.

An energy and climate change strategy setting out the proposals and policies for meeting carbon budgets will be laid before Parliament in the summer. This report will put the Government's carbon reduction strategy in the context of the overall programme for delivering secure and low-carbon energy, transport and housing, in a way which benefits the UK economy into the future. An estimate of the cost of the proposed financial mechanism for carbon capture and storage demonstration will also be published as part of the Impact Assessment alongside the consultation in the summer.

**Fossil Fuels: Subsidies**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that global fossil fuel subsidies are reduced as part of a post-2012 agreement at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change conference of parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Copenhagen in December 2009. [265219]

**Joan Ruddock:** We recognise that fossil fuel subsidies form a barrier to the development, deployment and diffusion of low carbon technologies.

Each country will have different strategies for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Where countries have absolute emissions reduction targets, it is clear that the removal of subsidies is one way in which they could meet such targets.

For developing countries that do not have absolute emissions reduction targets, the EU has proposed that "low carbon development strategies" be prepared, to enable these countries to take action to reduce their emissions. Efforts to remove subsidies could be part of these plans, and support could be provided by the international community to enable this to occur.

**Members: Correspondence**

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 21 November 2008, regarding Warm Front grants, sent on behalf of Mr. Hussey. [260111]

**Joan Ruddock:** I replied to the hon. Member for Northavon on 30 March 2009 and apologise for the long delay, which was due to departmental reorganisation.

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 19 February 2009 on Warm Front. [270835]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member's letter on 30 April 2009, with apologies for the delay.

**Warm Front Scheme**

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have received grants under the Warm Front scheme in each year since its inception; and what categories of information his Department collects on successful applicants to the scheme. [265727]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The following table details the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in each year since its inception:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 97,616 |
| 2001-02 | 307,678 |
| 2002-03 | 219,328 |
| 2003-04 | 188,974 |
| 2004-05 | 208,084 |
| 2005-06 | 173,184 |
| 2006-07 | 253,079 |
| 2007-08 | 268,900 |
| 2008-09 | 233,594 |

To determine their eligibility for Warm Front, the scheme manager collects the following information from all applicants to the scheme: name, date of birth, ethnicity, address and telephone number; evidence of tenure (and landlord information if a rented property); and evidence of receipt of benefit. When benefits are related to other members of the household these details are also required.

For successful applicants, additional information is also collected on the property, including the name of the energy supplier, number of residents and property data required to complete the Reduced Data Standard Assessment Procedure which enables the scheme manager to determine the increase in the energy efficiency of a household as an outcome of the measures installed.

All data are handled fully in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints have been received by his Department regarding the quality of Warm Front heating installations in the last 12 months. [265990]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department has only recently begun to record the number of complaints received in respect of Warm Front heating installations. As such, we cannot provide consolidated data for this period.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what cash in bank requirement there is for Warm Front contractors. [265992]

**Joan Ruddock:** All registered installers are required to provide a performance bond of £25,000 to cover remedial work and other potential liabilities for up to two years after they cease to be on the scheme.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average Warm Front grant per heating installation has been for each sub-contractor under the scheme. [265993]

**Joan Ruddock:** A copy of this information has been placed in the Library of the House.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments have been made by his Department to *(a)* Eaga and *(b)* its associated companies in each of the last eight years. [265994]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following table shows the payments made by DECC and its predecessor Department to Eaga since the beginning of this phase of the Warm Front scheme in 2005, alongside the total grant spend for this year. All payments to installers and suppliers working on Warm Front are made through Eaga.

The final column shows the total value of these payments that are retained by Eaga in scheme management fees and their subsidiary organisations that work on Warm Front. The amount paid to the subsidiary organisations does not exceed 30 per cent. of the work available in any period.

£000

| Scheme year | Warm Front budget-allocated spend | Sum of payments[1] | Payments retained by Eaga or subsidiaries |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 187,286 | 171,928 | 45,070 |
| 2006-07 | 315,000 | 317,111 | 101,654 |
| 2007-08 | 350,000 | 377,509 | 127,020 |
| 2008-09[2] | 377,562 | 385,125 | 135,052 |

[1] Warm Front has generated income through trading energy savings to energy suppliers to help them meet their Energy Efficiency Commitment/Carbon Emissions Reduction Target obligations. This income is then used to provide more measures through Warm Front. Therefore the sum of monies paid by the Department to Eaga exceeds the budget allocation in some years.
[2] The data for the 2008-09 financial year run to 28 February 2009.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many former officials of his Department and its predecessors now work for Eaga and its associated companies. [265995]

**Joan Ruddock:** Two former officials of predecessor Departments are currently employed by the Eaga group of companies.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front heating installations have been inspected by his Department's officials. [265997]

**Joan Ruddock:** DECC has appointed an independent quality assessor, White Young Green, to carry out such inspections on its behalf. These inspections, carried out on a random sample of jobs, assess the quality of the installation in terms of workmanship, health and safety, and adherence to scheme specifications. White Young Green reports back to the Department on its findings through bi-yearly audit reports and other ad hoc audits requested by the Department.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many visits Ministers in his Department and its predecessor have made to properties where Warm Front heating has been installed in the last 12 months. [266088]

**Joan Ruddock:** Three such visits have taken place in the last 12 months.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1807W, on Warm Front scheme: lighting, on what assumptions calculations using the industry standard software of the carbon abatement accruing from the Warm Front scheme are based. [267005]

**Joan Ruddock:** No assumptions are made in this respect. Under the terms of the Warm Front contract, Eaga is required to calculate the standard assessment procedure (SAP) ratings using SAP2001 (the industry standard software).

This software does not recognise any contribution by compact fluorescent light bulbs to carbon savings. We are unable to comment on the assumptions on which this software makes calculations as the Department is not the writer of the software.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many boilers installed under the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Sutton and Cheam constituency and *(b)* England have required repair on (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four or more occasions; and if he will make a statement. [267226]

**Joan Ruddock:** The latest period for which figures are available is 1 September 2007 to 25 March 2009. The following data show system repairs (including although not exclusively pertaining to boiler repairs) in Sutton and Cheam and England respectively.

| | Sutton and Cheam | England |
|---|---|---|
| 1 visit | 93 | 66,436 |
| 2 visits | 40 | 20,384 |
| 3 visits | 7 | 6,227 |
| 4 visits | 2 | 2,967 |
| Total properties covered | 519 | 372,775 |
| Total properties visited | 142 | 96,014 |

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many domestic properties have received insulation improvements under the Warm Front scheme since its inception. [271333]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* During the contracted period, June 2005 to end of scheme year 2008-09 (31 March), the Warm Front scheme has installed insulation in 337,084 households across England.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many companies Eaga plc have removed from the approved supplier list for the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* England since the scheme's introduction. [274366]

**Joan Ruddock:** Eaga has managed Warm Front in the East Midlands since 2005, and cannot provide information on installers prior to that date. Since 2005, no installer in the East Midlands or nationally has been removed from the scheme by Eaga.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which companies Eaga plc has removed from the approved supplier list for the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* the UK since the introduction of the scheme. [275238]

**Joan Ruddock:** Since the start of the current phase of the Warm Front scheme in 2005, no installer in *(a)* North

West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England or *(d)* nationally has been removed from the scheme by Eaga, but eight have left the scheme.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* lofts and *(b)* cavities were insulated through the Warm Front programme in each of the last three years. [277822]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following tables show the number of *(a)* lofts and *(b)* cavities insulated through the Warm Front programme in each of the last three years, and in the current year to date.

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *Current year to date*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Lofts | 61,368 | 60,652 | 57,104 | 13,360 |
| *(b)* Cavities | 36,237 | 31,227 | 27,100 | 6,871 |

[1] 29 March 2009 to 30 May 2009.

### Warm Front Scheme: Contracts

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front contractors have declared themselves bankrupt; and on what date each did so. [266004]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* Contractors cannot work on the scheme while bankrupt but one contractor has declared itself to be in voluntary liquidation. Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd. declared its voluntary liquidation status on 3 March 2009, and, as such is no longer registered on the Warm Front scheme.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of work under Warm Front heating installation contracts has been directly delivered by Eaga under each company brand name which it uses. [266005]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* I can confirm that between 1 June 2005 and 20 March 2009, Eaga's installers were given 29 per cent. of allocations under the scheme to date. A breakdown of the allocation to Eaga's in-house installers is provided in the following table. This breakdown is based on a restriction DECC has agreed with Eaga: that Eaga's in-house installers are restricted to carrying out no more than an allocated 30 per cent. of the work available under Warm Front during the lifetime of the scheme.

*Breakdown of 29 per cent. allocation to Eaga in-house installers*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Iguana[1] | 14.6 |
| Eaga Home Services Ltd. | 13.2 |
| Eaga Scotland Ltd. | 0.6 |
| Eaga Social Housing | 0.6 |
| Total | 29 |

[1] Trading as Eagaheat since 2 March 2009.

### Warm Front Scheme: Cornwall

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many pensioners resident in Cornwall have *(a)* been eligible for and *(b)* received a grant from the Warm Front scheme in each year since it was launched. [259615]

**Joan Ruddock:** While we cannot estimate the number of people who may have been eligible for Warm Front assistance in each year of the scheme, the following table details the number of applicants over 60 who have received a Warm Front grant in Cornwall since the scheme's inception.

| *Scheme year* | *Households assisted* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 443 |
| 2001-02 | 1,214 |
| 2002-03 | 944 |
| 2003-04 | 1,522 |
| 2004-05 | 1,784 |
| 2005-06 | 1,423 |
| 2006-07 | 1,529 |
| 2007-08 | 1,822 |
| 2008-09 to 25 January | 1,383 |
| Total | 12,064 |

### Warm Front Scheme: Winchester

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many pensioners resident in Winchester constituency *(a)* were eligible for and *(b)* have received a grant from the Warm Front scheme in each year since its inception. [260716]

**Joan Ruddock:** Eaga does not record or estimate the number of eligible households at any given time.

The following table presents the total number of households assisted in this constituency in each year since the scheme's inception in 2000. It also provides details of the number of households assisted with a resident over 60 years of age.

| *Scheme year* | *Over 60* | *Total number of households assisted* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 26 | 42 |
| 2001-02 | 71 | 122 |
| 2002-03 | 81 | 112 |
| 2003-04 | 38 | 59 |
| 2004-05 | 64 | 97 |
| 2005-06 | 47 | 73 |
| 2006-07 | 53 | 85 |
| 2007-08 | 75 | 105 |
| 2008-09 | 113 | 164 |

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### School Playing Fields

8. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the number of secondary schools that do not have their own sports playing fields. [279166]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department does not hold an estimate of the number of secondary schools that do not have their own playing fields.

Whether or not schools have their own playing fields, which may not be possible in urban settings, they are required to have access to team game playing fields proportionate to their pupil numbers and type.

**Primary Capital Programme**

9. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he has allocated to the Primary Capital Programme in Blackpool for the next three years. [279167]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Following approval to Blackpool's revised Primary Strategy for Change, my officials wrote to the authority on 13 May confirming additional funding allocations of £3 million for 2009-10 and £5.38 million in 2010-11 to support local delivery of the Primary Capital Programme. Decisions about funding for future years will be taken in the context of the next spending review.

**Literacy Teaching**

11. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve the teaching of literacy in schools. [279169]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Primary literacy standards are the highest levels ever, and GCSE English pass rates are rising. The National Strategies support schools across England to strengthen the quality of literacy teaching, including phonics, and disseminate good practice. In particular, the 'Every Child a Reader' and 'Every Child a Writer' programmes support the neediest pupils' literacy development. We work closely with the Training and Development Agency to ensure that Initial Teacher Training providers offer the best possible training.

**Autism**

12. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure that children diagnosed with autism are not excluded from mainstream education. [279170]

**Ed Balls:** I have made it clear that schools should actively avoid permanently excluding children with SEN other than in the most exceptional circumstances. This includes children with autism whose disability often results in challenging behaviour. We have reduced exclusions of children with SEN because schools are intervening early and providing targeted support and we have accepted all Sir Alan Steer's recent recommendations to support and challenge local authorities with disproportionate high exclusions of children with SEN including those with autism.

**Permanent Exclusions**

13. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of school age who have been permanently excluded from school are without schooling. [279171]

**Mr. Coaker:** Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide suitable full-time education from the sixth school day of a permanent exclusion. A recent Ofsted report commissioned by DCSF found eight of 18 local authorities surveyed did not fully comply with the legal requirements. We accept Ofsted's recommendations and will work with them and with the National Strategies to provide support and challenge in improving access to alternative provision.

**Secondary Schools**

14. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of educational standards in secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [279172]

**Ed Balls:** In 2008, 129,000 more pupils achieved 5+ A*-C GCSEs than in 1997, an increase of 19.7 percentage points; the corresponding figure including English and maths is 76,500 pupils—an increase of 12 percentage points.

**Careers Advice**

15. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to improve careers advice for school pupils; and if he will make a statement. [279173]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Through the Education and Skills Act 2008 statutory duty on schools to deliver careers education impartially and the statutory guidance to be published this autumn, we are placing clear expectations on schools for the provision of high quality information on all 14-19 learning options. We also have a clause governing advice on apprenticeships in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill and we will set out further measures in our information, advice and guidance strategy later this year.

**School Buildings: Expenditure**

17. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to bring forward spending on school buildings to 2009-10. [279175]

**Ed Balls:** £939 million of school capital funding allocations to schools and to 121 local authorities are being brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10. These will be spent on school buildings, ICT and other capital items.

It is disappointing that 27 local authorities did not take up the offer of bringing forward a possible £183 million.

**Children's Social Care**

18. **Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve standards of children's social care; and if he will make a statement. [279176]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We are taking a number of steps to improve children's social care. We are improving the skills and capacity of the work force, supported by an extra £73 million and have set up the Social Work Task Force.

We have accepted all the recommendations in Lord Laming's report on safeguarding and have published a detailed action plan to implement these.

We are also implementing our "Care Matters" programme to improve the support given to children in care.

**Schools: Halifax**

19. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans there are to renew and refurbish the fabric of schools in Halifax. [279178]

**Mr. Coaker:** Decisions on which schools to invest in are a matter for the local authority. Halifax primary schools will benefit from Calderdale's Primary Capital Programme allocation of £8.67 million over the next two years. Halifax secondary schools will be renewed and refurbished when Calderdale joins the BSF programme. I am aware that my hon. Friend met the former Schools Minister to discuss Halifax's BSF project. I am considering the matters that were raised.

**Language Teaching: Secondary Schools**

20. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of language teaching in secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [279179]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Ofsted's languages report published in July 2008 found that a third of schools surveyed showed considerable strengths in languages teaching. Teaching observed was rated satisfactory in a further 50 per cent. of schools. Strengths included thorough planning, a variety of activities and good questioning of students to ensure comprehension. Weaker features included insufficient practice in the language and over-reliance on course books and memorisation of words and phrases.

**Primary Schools**

21. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of standards of educational achievement in primary schools. [279180]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Standards in primary schools have never been higher. In 2008 Key Stage 2 results show 81 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved level 4 or above in English and 79 per cent. achieved level 4 or above in mathematics.

There have been consistent and significant improvements in our primary schools over the past decade. Compared to 1997, over 113,000 more 11-year-olds achieved the target level for their age in reading, writing and mathematics in 2008.

**Care Homes**

22. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will increase his Department's funding for local authority provision for vulnerable children in care homes. [279181]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Local authority expenditure on services for looked after children has increased from £1.3 billion to approximately £2.2 billion in 2007-08. In addition, for 2007-08 and through the spending review period, almost £300 million extra has been provided by Government to help Care Matters reforms.

It is essential that the residential sector provides good quality care. As part of this aim we are piloting social pedagogy and working with the Children's Workforce Development Council to improve standards.

**CRB Checks: Teachers**

23. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the retention of information on the outcomes of Criminal Records Bureau checks on teachers. [279182]

**Mr. Coaker:** I am aware of representations made to the CRB in January 2009 by Southend-on-Sea borough council. The question concerned the retention of risk assessment information made by recruiting managers, including cases where an individual is appointed to a post after a CRB disclosure has been provided which includes relevant information. The CRB responded to the question, and DCSF officials undertook to consider the issue in the context of planned revisions to the Department's "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment" guidance.

**Standard Assessment Tests**

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure the timely marking of standard assessment tests in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [279168]

**Mr. Coaker:** Marking of this year's National Curriculum Key Stage 2 tests in 2009 is well under way and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) advise that they are currently on schedule to deliver results to schools by 7 July.

The Department is monitoring delivery closely, and Ministers are receiving regular updates on progress.

**Apprentices**

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated to apprenticeships for young people aged 16 to 18 years in 2010-11. [279183]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Planned national expenditure on 16 to 18 apprenticeships for 2010-11 will be published in the LSC's Annual Statement of Priorities in autumn 2009, and confirmed in March 2010.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* assistance and *(b)* funding his Department provides to people under 18 years old undertaking an apprenticeship. [279788]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department, with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, created the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) which has end-to-end responsibility for apprenticeships and has been fully

operational since April this year. Supporting 16 to 18-year-olds is one of the NAS's key priorities for 2009/10. The NAS works with employers across the country to develop apprenticeship opportunities, and works with Connexions and other agencies to ensure that young people have the information and support they need to access them. From the beginning of this year the on-line apprenticeship vacancy system has been operating, providing a free service for employers and providers to advertise apprenticeship vacancies, and allowing potential apprentices to register and apply for vacancies. Young people can also access apprenticeship opportunities through their local 14-19 Prospectus, a user-friendly, fully searchable directory of education and training available in their area at entry level through to NVQ level 3.

The Department fully funds the training element of apprenticeships for 16 to 18-year-olds. The apprenticeships budget for 16 to 18-year-olds is £628 million for 2008-09 and £675 million for 2009-10.

In addition, earlier in the year my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a £140 million package to provide 35,000 extra apprenticeship places in the coming year.

Apprenticeship starts increased from 65,000 in 1996/97 to 225,000 in 2007/08, up 22 per cent. on the year before. Since 1996/97 over 2 million people have started an apprenticeship.

### Departmental Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278751]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008, the Department for Children, Schools and Families is required to give a summary report on data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner in its annual resource accounts.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has reported on personal data breaches in the 2007-08 annual resource account and this can be found at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/

We will be publishing information on personal data security breaches reported to the Information Commissioner for the 2008-09 reporting year before Parliament rises in July. The information is currently being compiled and is to be audited and verified before it is laid before Parliament.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278752]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework and the Data Handling Report produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

DCSF has clear guidance for all staff about their responsibilities in relation to information handling and data security, which is regularly reinforced. In addition all staff must complete online protecting information training by 31 August 2009. The Department will take robust action against any member of staff who fails to take reasonable steps to safeguard the information and data for which they or their staff are responsible, and this may include dismissal and criminal proceedings where appropriate.

In DCSF there have been less than five such breaches where disciplinary action has been appropriate in the 12 months to 31 May 2009 and individual detail is suppressed on grounds of confidentiality.

### Departmental Dismissal

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many members of staff in his Department and its predecessor and their agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [278393]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department was established on 28 June 2007. Less than five staff were dismissed by the Department in the financial year 2007-08, and seven during 2008-09. During each of these periods there have been less than five dismissals for failure to consistently meet performance standards. Information about totals of less than five is suppressed on grounds of confidentiality. The Department has no agencies.

Information for preceding years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have received the education maintenance allowance since the inception of the scheme. [279987]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Geoffrey Russell, the LSC's Acting Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

### History: Primary Education

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of children in each school year from 7 to 11 who are being taught British history. [278150]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** History is a statutory subject for all pupils to the end of key stage 3, normally school year 9. British history is a compulsory element of the National Curriculum at all key stages. It is therefore expected that all children will be taught British history at least to the age of 14.

History is not compulsory at key stage 4, normally years 10 and 11, but students are entitled to follow a humanities course (comprising geography and history). Citizenship, which is statutory at key stages 3 and 4, also provides opportunities for pupils to explore what it means to be British as part of a wider discussion of their identities. GCSE history remains a popular choice for young people and must contain at least 25 per cent. British history.

### Pupils: Free School Meals

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children are entitled to free school meals in each local authority area; and what the percentage change in such proportions was in each area between 1997 and 2008. [276184]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

### Schools: Romford

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has plans to visit schools in Romford in 2009-10. [272900]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families does not have any current plans to visit schools in Romford.

### Schools: Transport

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on school transport in *(a)* Greater Manchester and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [270660]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The available information on how much was spent on school transport in Greater Manchester and England for 2007-08 is contained in the table:

| *Local authority* | *Net current expenditure on home to school transport (£)* |
|---|---|
| England | 890,257,904 |
| Greater Manchester | 34,963,146 |
| Bolton | 3,278,553 |
| Bury | 2,075,000 |
| Manchester | 10,162,745 |
| Oldham | 2,056,754 |
| Rochdale | 2,275,858 |
| Salford | 2,976,705 |
| Stockport | 3,115,984 |
| Tameside | 1,420,000 |
| Trafford | 3,430,994 |
| Wigan | 4,170,554 |

*Notes:*
1. 2007-08 data are subject to change by local authority.
2. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 21 April 2009.
3. The data are drawn from the local authorities section 52 outturn statements (table A).

### Special Educational Needs

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average cost of placing a child with a statement of special educational needs for behavioural, emotional and social difficulties in a special school was in the last year for which figures are available. [279912]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** During the 2008-09 financial year, we estimate that the average funding for a maintained special school place was £17,633. However, from information held centrally it is not possible to estimate this figure for children with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties in particular.

In estimating this figure we have included all children attending maintained special schools. We have not included related costs often incurred by local authorities, such as home to school transport, or the capital costs associated with building or refurbishing maintained special schools. We have also not included the cost of places in independent sector and non-maintained special schools.

### Special Educational Needs: General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 279W, on special educational needs: general certificate of secondary education, at how many mainstream schools which had between one and nine pupils with statements of special educational needs no such pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE in 2008. [279910]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Statistical disclosure rules are operated to protect the inadvertent disclosure of personal information about an individual pupil. For achievement data, the recognised approach is to suppress school level performance information where there are 10 or fewer pupils at the end of key stage 4 in the school.

That is accepted practice in the published Achievement and Attainment Tables. Following that approach, it would not normally be possible to give school level performance information for schools with 10 or fewer pupils at the end of key stage 4 with statements of special educational needs.

While naming individual schools would potentially disclose personal information about individual pupils, simply stating the number of schools does not.

Additionally, in the previous answer, the approach was relaxed slightly to fewer than 10 pupils (rather than 10 or fewer) at the end of key stage 4 with statements of special educational needs.

There are 26 maintained mainstream schools with more than 10 pupils with statements of SEN at the end of key stage 4, where no pupils with statements of SEN achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or the equivalent in 2008.

There are 43 maintained mainstream schools with 10 or more pupils with statements of SEN at the end of key stage 4, where no pupils with statements of SEN achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or the equivalent in 2008.

As the number of pupils was over the 10 pupils threshold for those schools, they were named in previous answers.

There were 2,542 maintained mainstream schools at which between one and nine pupils at the end of key stage 4 had statements of special educational needs in 2008.

There were 1,279 maintained mainstream schools at which between one and nine pupils at the end of key stage 4 had statements of special educational needs and where no such pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C or the equivalent, in 2008.

To prevent inadvertent disclosure of personal information, it will not be possible to name those schools in subsequent answers.

The source of these data is the Achievement and Attainment Tables' database.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 16 June 2009*

## WALES

### Annual Reports

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he expects to publish the Wales Office Annual Report 2008. [280207]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office Annual Report 2009 was published on 12 June 2009.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279488]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279489]

**Mr. Hain:** No.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279389]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

### Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many companies in Wales provided services or products to the automotive industry in each year since 1997. [280141]

**Mr. Hain:** The automotive industry has remained relatively stable in Wales since 1997 with around 200 companies in the direct supply chain, currently employing 20,000 people. This includes two engine plants owned by volume vehicle manufacturers.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Casinos: Licensing

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which local authorities have obtained a licence for a *(a)* small and *(b)* large casino; and when each such casino (i) opened or (ii) is planned to open. [280198]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Act 2005 (Geographical Distribution of Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Order 2008 came into effect on 20 May 2008. This order specifies which licensing authorities may issue large and small casino premises licences. It is up to the individual licensing authorities to decide when they will invite and consider applications for the new premises licences. None of them have yet done so.

### Cultural Heritage

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the results of the consultation on the World Heritage for the Nation: Identifying, Protecting and Promoting our World Heritage document. [279114]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* We will shortly be concluding our analysis of the results of the World Heritage Policy Review. We will publish the results in the autumn.

### Departmental Mass Media

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* UK Sport, *(b)* Sport England and *(c)* Arts Council England spent on media monitoring services in each of the last three years; what proportion of such expenditure by each body was drawn from its Exchequer funding in each such year; and which organisations provided those services. [279940]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The following figures have been provided by the bodies requested. They include subscriptions to bespoke media monitoring services and the cost of press cuttings. They do not include the costs of any transcripts or recordings, fees to the Newspaper Licensing Authority, or analysis of press coverage. All figures include VAT.

*Arts Council England*

| *Financial year* | £ |
|---|---|
| *2006-07* | |
| Artis Durrants | 15,160 |
| Romeike | 11,983 |
| Arena Durrants | 24,800 |
| Romeike | 2,678 |
| Cision | 14,252 |
| *2007-08* | |
| Durrants | 88,080 |
| Cision | 30,928 |
| *2008-09*[1] | |
| Durrants | 61,445 |

[1] 2008-09 is a provisional figure only, as the accounts have yet to be audited.

*Note:*
All expenditure is 100 per cent. Exchequer funded.

*UK Sport*

| *Financial year* | £ |
|---|---|
| *2006-07* | |
| Precise | 24,537 |
| Newsping/Updatum | 3,231 |
| Vocus[2] | 7,050 |

*UK Sport*

| *Financial year* | £ |
|---|---|
| *2007-08* | |
| Precise | 35,277 |
| Newsping/Updatum | 3,231 |
| Vocus[2] | 7,400 |
| *2008-09*[1] | |
| Precise | 35,390 |
| Newsping/Updatum | 3,231 |
| Vocus[2] | 7,400 |

[1] 2008-09 is a provisional figure only, as the accounts have yet to be audited.
[2] Payments to Vocus cover a number of services of which media monitoring is one. It has not been possible to assess what percentage of the overall figure is accounted for by media monitoring.
*Note:*
All expenditure is 100 per cent. Exchequer funded.

Sport England have been unable to provide figures within the given timeframe. I have asked the chief executive to write when figures are available and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* English Heritage, *(c)* the Heritage Lottery Fund and *(d)* the Big Lottery Fund spent on media monitoring services in 2008-09; and which organisations provided those services. [279941]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The following figures include subscriptions to bespoke media monitoring services and the cost of press cuttings. They do not include the costs of any transcripts or recordings, fees to the Newspaper Licensing Authority, or analysis of press coverage. All figures are inclusive of VAT.

*2008-09*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *DCMS* | |
| Precise | 52,908 |
| Media Monitoring Unit[1] | 45,237 |

[1] The Department pays an annual subscription charge to the Media Monitoring Unit (part of the Central Office of Information, previously part of the Cabinet Office). This includes a number of media monitoring services.

The requested bodies advise the following figures, which like the DCMS figures, include subscriptions to bespoke media monitoring services and the cost of press cuttings. They do not include the costs of any transcripts or recordings, fees to the Newspaper Licensing Authority, or analysis of press coverage. They are inclusive of VAT.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *English Heritage* | |
| Durrants | 83,394 |
| TNS Media Intelligence | 12,887 |
| *Heritage Lottery Fund* | |
| Durrants | 52,742 |

The Big Lottery Fund has been unable to provide the requested information in the given timeframe. I have asked the chief executive to write when figures are available, and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Departmental Press**

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279419]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Secretary of State receives the following papers and periodicals:

*Papers*
- *Daily Express*
- *Daily Mail*
- *Daily Mirror*
- *Daily Telegraph*
- *Evening Standard*
- *Financial Times*
- *Guardian*
- *Independent*
- *Sun*
- *Times*

*Periodicals*
- *Economist*
- *New Statesman*
- *Spectator*
- *Tribune*

The Minister for Sport receives no periodicals, but does receive the following papers:
- *Daily Express*
- *Daily Mail*
- *Daily Mirror*
- *Daily Telegraph*
- *Evening Standard*
- *Financial Times*
- *Guardian*
- *Independent*
- *Racing Post*
- *Sun*
- *Times*
- *Yorkshire Post*

The Minister for Culture and Tourism receives the following papers and periodicals:

*Papers*
- *Daily Mail*
- *Evening Standard*
- *Times*

*Periodicals*
- *Caterer Hotel Keeper*
- *Music Week*
- *Stage*

The Minister for Creative Industries and the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting do not receive any publications.

The total cost for these over the period 1 May 2009 to 31 May 2009 is £283.51. All publications are cancelled on Fridays and during recess. All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Film: Israel

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on reaching agreement on a UK-Israel Film Co-production Treaty. [279751]

**Mr. Simon:** We have completed the substantive negotiations with Israel on a film co-production agreement. There are some minor elements to be finalised, but we expect to be able to announce arrangements for the signing of this treaty soon.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympics beach volleyball event at Horse Guards Parade. [278655]

**Tessa Jowell:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic Games at existing venues. The direct costs associated with staging the events at existing venues come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. However these costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Africa: Conflict Prevention

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding the Government have provided for the training of African peacekeepers since 2005; how many new peacekeepers have been trained as a result; and if he will make a statement. [279077]

**Mr. Thomas:** Since 2004-05 the UK Government have allocated £80 million to Peace Support Operation (PSO) Projects in Africa. This has supported the training of approximately 12,000 African peacekeepers.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consultations have been carried out by his Department since July 2007; and at what cost. [279343]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Details of consultations carried out by the Department for International Development (DFID) are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/consultations

Information on expenditure on public consultation is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279396]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development's (DFID) special advisers have not attended any training courses in the last 12 months.

### Independent Evaluation Group Report

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the Independent Evaluation Group report on improving effectiveness and outcomes for the poor in health, nutrition and population; and what steps his Department plans to take in response to the report. [279862]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the main findings of the Independent Evaluation Group which provide the World Bank with clear directives on how it can improve the quality of its work in health, nutrition and population.

The World Bank has committed to refocus its capacity and support behind health system strengthening, especially in Africa. This is reflected in its health, nutrition and population strategy. DFID will continue to press for full and accelerated implementation of this strategy and has agreed to fund regional posts in health systems strengthening under the International Health Partnership.

### Kenya: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial aid the Government have provided to support projects in Kenya in each of the last five years. [280163]

**Mr. Thomas:** Full details of UK aid expenditure by country are contained in the Department for International Development's (DFID) publication 'Statistics on International Development'. This publication is available from the Library and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Relevant figures are reproduced in the following table.

*UK bilateral gross public expenditure (GPEX) and UK imputed multilateral share to Kenya, 2003-04 to 2007-08*

£000

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bilateral GPEX | 28,647 | 37,824 | 65,486 | 67,054 | 52,135 |
| UK imputed multilateral share | 11,601 | 27,179 | 13,033 | 24,032 | 34,433 |

### Kosovo: Education

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* children and *(b)* girls enrolled in (i) primary, (ii) secondary and (iii) tertiary education in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [279608]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The table provides the most recent World Bank data on net enrolment rates in primary, secondary and tertiary education in Kosovo for the year 2005-06.

| | *Percentage of all children* | *Percentage of girls* |
|---|---|---|
| Primary | 87.7 | 87 |
| Secondary | 74 | 66.4 |
| Tertiary | 17.7 | 15.2 |

### Kosovo: Electricity

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the availability and standard of supply of *(a)* electricity and *(b)* water in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [279607]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The most recent data available are provided by the World Bank from the year 2005-06 and show that 97.9 per cent. of the population in Kosovo has access to electricity. Data on overall access to water are not collected.

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Churches: Aerials

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners whether the Church Commissioners have a policy on mobile phone masts *(a)* on church property and *(b)* inside church spires. [279560]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The decision to host mobile phone telecommunication equipment on a church spire is a matter for the relevant parochial church council. Any installation would be subject to the requisite secular and ecclesiastical permissions being obtained, following public consultation, and each case is decided on its own merits.

As for property owned by the Commissioners, standard form leases are offered to telecom operators for masts on properties in the Commissioners' rural portfolio.

In the rest of the Commissioners' portfolio there are only a very small number of masts and these installations are dealt with case by case.

### Churches: Water Charges

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many churches in each diocese have reported an increase in their water bills as a result of the new surface water charges. [279561]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** Water charges are the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council of the particular church and such data are not held centrally.

However, as churches were previously exempt from water rates, in areas where surface water and highways charges have begun to be phased in, all those with connections to the public drains face increases. In many cases these will be substantial, with annual increases ranging from a few hundred pounds for a small church to several thousand pounds for large churches. If applied nationally, this would result in estimated charges of £5 million for surface water drainage and £10 million for highways drainage.

## SCOTLAND

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279493]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office has no contracts with the think-tank Demos.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279392]

**Ann McKechin:** Special advisers receive training as appropriate to enable them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". In the last 12 months, no training courses have been attended and no costs have been incurred.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Catering Staff: Pay

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) when the House's catering staff will receive their increases in pay arising from their pay settlement effective in April 2008; [279629]

(2) what settlement was reached in respect of pay for catering staff of the House for 2008-09. [280030]

**Nick Harvey:** The pay settlement for catering and retail staff for 2008-09 has yet to be agreed. However, the trade unions representing catering staff (GMB and PCS) have agreed to recommend acceptance of an improved offer made by management for a three-year pay settlement. The unions are balloting their members on management's revised offer and if both unions' members accept, staff will receive their pay increases and arrears with their July salaries.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the service family accommodation rented by his Department from *(a)* councils and *(b)* registered social landlords by standard of condition. [280195]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** No service family accommodation is rented from councils or registered social landlords.

## Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279402]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Special advisers receive training as appropriate to enable them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers. The only training undertaken by the MOD special advisers in the last 12 months has been theatre pre-deployment training. This in-house training includes the mandatory briefings on safety and security and survival, evasion, resistance and extraction prior to visiting operational theatres.

## EU Battlegroups

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what stage the EU Battlegroup roster has reached. [279966]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The current EU Battlegroup roster forecasts commitments to 2013, and is shown in the following table:

*EU Battlegroup Roster 2009-13*

| *Semester*[1] | *Contributing nations* | *Lead nation* |
|---|---|---|
| 2009—1 | Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece | Italy |
| | Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus | Greece |
| 2009—2 | Czech Republic and Slovakia | Czech Republic |
| | Belgium, France and Luxembourg | Belgium |
| 2010—1 | Poland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia | Poland |
| | UK and Netherlands | UK |
| 2010—2 | Italy, Romania and Turkey | Italy |
| | Spain, France and Portugal | Spain |
| 2011—1 | Netherlands, Germany, Finland, Austria, Lithuania | Netherlands |
| | Sweden, Finland, Norway, Estonia, Ireland | Sweden |
| 2011—2 | Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Cyprus | Greece |
| | Portugal, Spain, France and Italy or France alone | Portugal or France |
| 2012—1 | Vacant | |
| | Vacant | |
| 2012—2 | Italy, Slovenia, Hungary | Italy |
| | Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | Germany |
| 2013—1 | Poland, Germany, France | Poland |
| | Vacant | |
| 2013—2 | UK and Sweden | UK |
| | Belgium (TBC) | Belgium (TBC) |

[1] 1 = January to June; 2 = July to December

## Gurkhas

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of *(a)* recruitment of Gurkhas and *(b)* resettlement of former Gurkhas in the UK if his Department were to apply its policies on former UK service personnel to former Gurkha soldiers. [280396]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Since 2004, Gurkhas who served on or after 1 July 1997 have had the right to settle in the UK on discharge and the majority have done so. Some Gurkhas who retired before 1 July 1997 were given settlement under discretionary arrangements and the Government have recently extended these arrangements to include all those who retired before 1 July 1997 with four or more years service.

There is no evidence that these changes will have any impact on the recruitment of Gurkhas—recruiting is now under way for the 2010 intake and the quality and quantity of applicants in Nepal is as high as ever. Levels of resettlement of former Gurkhas in the UK are expected to increase and further work is being undertaken across Government to assess what the effects of this might be. The MOD will continue to monitor these issues to ensure that force structures and operational effectiveness are sustained.

## Gurkhas: Taxation

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* tax and *(b)* other payments Gurkhas who retired before 1997 were required to make during their service to the Government; and if he will make a statement. [279747]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Before 1 July 1997 the Brigade of Gurkhas was based in the far east. Only those soldiers who came to the United Kingdom on a tour of duty and those commissioned through the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst paid tax.

Other payments made from a Gurkha's pay may have included recovery of debts including military fines and forfeitures of pay, overpayments, debit balances, payment of civil fines and judgment debts.

Voluntary payments may also have been made for allotments to family members in Nepal, savings and insurance schemes.

## Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Horam:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Orpington of 7 May 2009 to his Department on the Spitfire and Hurricane gate guardians at the entrance to St. George's Chapel, Biggin Hill. [279639]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I replied to the hon. Member on 15 June 2009, advising that I would write to him with a substantive reply within the next few weeks.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on research on reducing *(a)* carbon dioxide, *(b)* methane and *(c)* nitrous oxide emissions from domestic agriculture in the last five years. [278988]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA's Farming and Food Science research programme in the period 2004-05 to 2008-09 has included a number of projects aimed at reducing carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide emissions from domestic agriculture. Expenditure has been as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 2 |
| 2005-06 | 1.7 |
| 2006-07 | 3.4 |
| 2007-08 | 3.9 |
| 2008-09 | 4.2 |

### Agriculture: Waste Disposal

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average cost to a farmer of constructing a winter slurry storage silo. [279909]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* We do not hold figures for the cost to individual farmers of constructing a winter slurry store. In any event, an average figure could be misleading owing to the different sizes of farm holdings. The Department can confirm that the estimated costs to the sector of constructing additional storage facilities to comply with the storage capacity requirement are between £12.8 million and £16.5 million per annum. This was outlined in the Department's Impact Assessment of proposals to revise the Nitrates Action Programme.

### Animal Welfare

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the effectiveness of the provisions of the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925 in ensuring the maintenance of animal welfare standards; and if he will make a statement. [279089]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** As well as being covered by the 1925 Act, performing animals are protected by provisions laid down in the Animal Welfare Act 2006. We are currently in the process of reviewing the welfare standards of performing animals, and will consider the need for any further controls in due course.

### Bees

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the allocation of additional funding for research into bee colony collapse announced on 17 June 2008 on bee health; and if he will make a statement. [278817]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 10 June 2009]:* Analysis of the results of this research within the Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit shows that the most important risk factor in the mortality or weakening of colonies is Deformed Wing Virus, a virus transmitted by the parasitic Varroa mite, clearly indicating failed or unsuccessful treatments of mite infestations.

This highlights the importance of improving standards of husbandry and is in agreement with results from earlier studies investigating abnormal colony losses in 2007. The impact of mite infestations was exacerbated by the unfavourable weather conditions over the last two years which did not allow colonies to prosper.

The weather conditions experienced so far in 2009 have led to far fewer losses. A final report with the results from the investigations into abnormal colony losses will be published later this year.

### Birds of Prey

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate his Department has made of the population of each species of bird of prey in the UK. [279086]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The population of most species is assessed periodically by species-specific surveys of breeding numbers. The frequency of surveys varies between species. The latest available results from these, together with the years of survey, are provided in the following table.

| *Year of survey* | *Species* | *Population estimate (breeding or territorial pairs)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | Honey Buzzard[1] | 33-69 |
| 2005 | Marsh Harrier[2] | 363-429 |
| 2004 | Hen Harrier[3] | 749 |
| 2006 | Montagu's Harrier[4] | 13-17 |
| 1994-2000 | Goshawk[5] | 410 |
| 2003 | Golden Eagle[6] | 442 |
| 2006 | Osprey[7] | 147-161 |
| 1990-94 | Merlin[8] | 1,330 |
| 2002 | Peregrine[9] | 1,492 |
| 2000 | Hobby[10] | 2,200 |
| 2000 | Sparrowhawk[11] | 41,000 |
| 2001 | Buzzard[12] | 44-61,000 |
| 2000 | Kestrel[13] | 35,400 |

| Year of survey | Species | Population estimate (breeding or territorial pairs) |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | Red Kite[14] | 1,200 |
| 2006 | White-tailed Eagle[15] | 36 |

[1] Batten, L.A. 2001. European Honey-buzzard Survey 2000 and 2001: preliminary results and request for further surveys. "British Birds" 94: 143-144. Ogilvie, M.A. 2003. European Honey-buzzards in the UK- correction to breeding totals. "British Birds" 96: 145.
[2] Holling, M. and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2008. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2005. "British Birds" 101: 276-316.
[3] Sim, I.M.W., Dillion, I.A., Eaton, M.A., Etheridge, B., Lindley, P., Riley, H., Saunders, R., Sharpe, C. and Tickner, M. 2007. Status of the Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* in the UK and Isle of Man in 2004, and a comparison with the 1988-89 and 1998 surveys. Bird Study 54(2): 256-267.
[4] Holling, M. and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2009. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2006. "British Birds" 102: 158-202.
[5] Petty, S.J. 1996. History of the Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* in Britain. In: Holmes, J.S. and Simons J.R. (eds). "The introduction and naturalisation of birds". HMSO, London. Scott, D. 2001. Goshawk breeding in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland Bird Report 1999:114-119.
[6] Eaton, M.A., Dillon, I.A., Stirling-Aird, P.K. and Whitfield, D.P. 2007. The status of the Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* in Britain in 2003. "Bird Study" 54: 212-220.
[7] Holling, M. and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2009. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2006. "British Birds" 102: 158-202.
[8] Rebecca, G. and Bainbridge, I.P. 1998. The breeding status of Merlin *Falco columbarius* in Britain in 1993-94. "Bird Study" 45:172-187. RSPB/Irish Raptor Study Group data (from UK Raptor Working Group 2000).
[9] Banks, A.N., Crick, H.Q.P., Coombes, R., Benn, S., Ratcliffe, D.A. and Humphreys, E. In press. The breeding status of the Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* in the United Kingdom and Isle of Man in 2002. "Bird Study".
[10] Clements, R. 2001. The Hobby in Britain: a new population estimate. "British Birds" 94: 402-408.
[11] Stone, B.H., Sears, J., Cranswick, PA, Gregory, R.D., Gibbons, D.W., Rehfisch, M.M., Aebischer, N.J. and Reid, J.B. 1997. Population estimates of birds in Britain and in the United Kingdom. "British Birds" 90: 1-22. Crick, H.Q.P., Marchant, J.H., Noble, D.G., Baillie, S.R., Balmer, D.E., Beaven, L.P., Coombes, R.H., Downie, I.S., Freeman, S.N., Joys, A.C., Leech, D.I., Raven, M.J., Robinson, R.A. and Thewlis, R.M. 2004. "Breeding Birds in the Wider Countryside: their conservation status 2003". BTO Research Report No. 353. BTO, Thetford.
[12] Stone, B.H., Sears, J., Cranswick, P.A., Gregory, R.D., Gibbons, D.W., Rehfisch, M.M., Aebischer, N.J. and Reid, J.B. 1997. Population estimates of birds in Britain and in the United Kingdom. "British Birds" 90: 1-22. Crick, H.Q.P., Marchant, J.H., Noble, D.G., Baillie, S.R., Balmer, D.E., Beaven, L.P., Coombes, R.H., Downie, I.S., Freeman, S.N., Joys, A.C., Leech, D.I., Raven, M.J., Robinson, R.A. and Thewlis, R.M. 2004. "Breeding Birds in the Wider Countryside: their conservation status 2003". BTO Research Report No. 353. BTO, Thetford.
[13] Stone, B.H., Sears, J., Cranswick, PA, Gregory, R.D., Gibbons, D.W., Rehfisch, M.M., Aebischer, N.J. and Reid, J.B. 1997. Population estimates of birds in Britain and in the United Kingdom. British Birds 90: 1-22. Crick, H.Q.P., Marchant, J.H., Noble, D.G., Baillie, S.R., Balmer, D.E., Beaven, L.P., Coombes, R.H., Downie, I.S., Freeman, S.N., Joys, A.C., Leech, D.I., Raven, M.J., Robinson, R.A. and Thewlis, R.M. 2004. "Breeding Birds in the Wider Countryside: their conservation status 2003". BTO Research Report No. 353. BTO, Thetford.
[14] Holling, M. and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2009. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2006. "British Birds" 102: 158-202.
[15] Holling, M. and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2009. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2006. "British Birds" 102: 158-202.

## Environment Protection: British Overseas Territories

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has allocated to the Overseas Territories Environment Programme in each of the last five years. [279090]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) is jointly funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development. DEFRA sits on the assessment panel that considers which projects OTEP should support, but DEFRA does not provide funding to OTEP.

## Fisheries

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the percentage change in levels of *(a)* tuna and *(b)* cod stocks in UK waters in each year since 1997. [279353]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Tuna stocks are distributed throughout the Atlantic. No stocks of tuna are found exclusively within UK waters. Only a small percentage of the distribution of the northern albacore and the east Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stocks are located within UK waters—to the west of Scotland and in the Celtic sea.

Tuna stocks are assessed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). ICCAT have not published absolute values for the stock biomass so that comparisons with historic estimates cannot be made. However, ICCAT does classify stock biomass levels relative to internationally agreed sustainable targets for biomass (BMSY—biomass at maximum sustainable yield) and exploitation rate (FMSY—fishing mortality at maximum sustainable yield).

For Northern albacore tuna, the most recent ICCAT assessment of stock status for northern albacore tuna was conducted in 2007[1]. ICCAT considers that spawning stock size in 2005 was about one quarter of the peak levels estimated for the late 1940s. The analysis indicated that in 2005 the stock has rebuilt to 20 per cent. below the biomass expected at the optimum level for exploitation, compared to 50 per cent. below in 2000.

For East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, the most recent ICCAT assessment of stock status for the east Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock was conducted in 2008[2]. Analysis indicates that recent (2003-07) spawning biomass is less than 40 per cent. of the highest estimated levels.

Cod stocks are distributed throughout the North East Atlantic in the waters that surround the UK. No stocks of cod are found exclusively within UK waters. The stocks are considered separate biological units and are usually referred to by geographic region; North sea Skagerrak and eastern English channel, West of Scotland, Rockall, Irish sea, Celtic sea and western English channel.

Cod stocks are assessed annually by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The most recent ICES advice was issued in 2008. For each cod stock the change in the level of spawning biomass in each year since 1997 is presented in table 1:

[1] http://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/ALB_EN.pdf

[2] http://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/BFT_EN.pdf

*Table 1: The percentage change in spawning stock biomass for the North sea Skagerrak and eastern English channel, West of Scotland, Irish sea, Celtic sea and western English channel cod stocks in each year after 1997*

| | | | | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | North sea[1] | West of Scotland[2] | Irish sea[3] | Celtic sea[4] |
| 1997 | -12 | -20 | -2 | -11 |
| 1998 | -16 | -15 | -14 | -13 |
| 1999 | -5 | -1 | 2 | -13 |
| 2000 | -33 | -13 | -58 | -33 |
| 2001 | -22 | -11 | 57 | 9 |
| 2002 | 21 | -14 | 89 | 33 |
| 2003 | -7 | -15 | -29 | -13 |
| 2004 | -10 | -20 | -3 | -42 |
| 2005 | -8 | -27 | -34 | -19 |
| 2006 | -6 | -2 | -2 | 13 |
| 2007 | 19 | 68 | -47 | 35 |
| 2008 | 35 | 19 | 16 | 16 |

[1] http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2008/2008/cod-347d.pdf
[2] http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2008/2008/cod-scow.pdf
[3] http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2008/2008/cod-iris.pdf
[4] http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2008/2008/cod-7e-k.pdf
*Notes:*
1. The cod stocks were considered at a low level relative to optimum in 1997.
2. For Rockall cod the available information is inadequate to evaluate stock trends.

## Fisheries: Finance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated for the support of fishermen in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [279330]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Data on the bids and allocations for support to fishermen are not held in a form that is easily accessible and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Some examples of work carried out by DEFRA in Essex and Castle Point in 2008-09 include the Environmentally Responsible Fishing Pilot Scheme, and funding for decommissioning of some 'under 10 metre vessels'.

Since 2000, we have allocated over £170 million of funding to the fishing industry in the UK as a whole[1]. This has consisted of structural funds, including the FIFG (Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance) and European Fisheries Fund (EFF), and a range of national schemes to help support development and sustainability of the UK fishing fleet.

Some £67 million[2] (including national match funding) is now available under the EFF, for projects in England. As part of this, during the past year, we have announced a package of support measures for the industry, amounting to around £5 million[3] worth of funding.

[1] Figures provided by Marine and Fisheries Agency.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid.

## Forestry Commission

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* postal address and *(b)* budget for 2009-10 of each Forestry Commission regional advisory committee is. [279922]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Forestry Commission's nine regional advisory committees can be contacted through the Commission's regional offices.

*North West England Office*
Forestry Commission
Peil Wyke
Bassenthwaite Lake
Cockermouth
Cumbria
CA13 9YG

*North East England Office*
Forestry Commission
1, Walby Hill
Rothbury
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 7NT

*Yorkshire and The Humber Office*
Forestry Commission
Wheldrake Lane
Crockey Hill
York
YO19 4FF

*East Midlands Office*
Forestry Commission
Edwinstow
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG21 9JL

*West Midlands Office*
Forestry Commission
Government Buildings
Block B
Whittington Road
Worcester
WR5 2FR

*East England Office*
Forestry Commission
Santon Downham
Brandon
Suffolk
IP27 0TJ

*South West England Office*
Forestry Commission
Mamhead Castle
Mamhead
Nr. Exeter
Devon
EX6 8HD

*South East England Office*
Forestry Commission
Alice Holt
Wrecclesham
Farnham
Surrey
GU10 4LF

*London Office*

Forestry Commission
Government Office for London
Riverwalk House
157-161 Millbank
London
SW1P 4RR

The regional advisory committees do not have their own budgets. The chairs of the committees receive an annual payment, currently £2,545 per annum, and the members are unpaid. The chair and members receive reimbursement of expenses in accordance with Forestry Commission rules.

**Livestock: Waste Disposal**

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the six-day rule for fallen livestock; and whether he plans to end the rule. [279828]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The six-day standstill rule applies only to movements of live animals, not to fallen livestock. Fallen livestock must be taken to or collected by an approved knacker, hunt kennel, incinerator or renderer, either by private arrangement, or under the National Fallen Stock Scheme, following the usual strict biosecurity protocols.

Maintenance of the six-day standstill rule for the movement of live animals is essential in reducing the spread of livestock disease between the time of infection and the time the disease becomes evident. There are therefore no plans for its abolition.

**National Parks: New Forest**

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of recent representations by staff of the New Forest National Park Authority on the administration of the Park; and if he will make a statement. [279305]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** On 8 June DEFRA's Permanent Secretary received an anonymous letter which made allegations about the management of the New Forest National Park. The issues outlined in the letter are matters for the National Park Authority to consider. However, DEFRA will be looking to the authority for reassurance that the issues raised in the letter are investigated and addressed, as appropriate.

**Nature Conservation: Crime**

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many convictions for offences related to birds were made under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in each of the last five years. [279087]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for bird-related offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007 (latest available figures) are shown in the following table:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 33 |
| 2004 | 64 |
| 2005 | 38 |
| 2006 | 103 |
| 2007 | 28 |

*Source:*
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom bird-related offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's wildlife crime priorities are for 2009-10, with particular reference to species subject to illegal trade. [279088]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Government's wildlife crime priorities for 2009-10, agreed by senior Government and enforcement officers, are badger persecution, bat persecution, species covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), freshwater pearl mussels, poaching, and raptor persecution.

The CITES species issues currently being focused on are caviar, ivory, ramin timber, tortoises and traditional medicines.

**Rodents**

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the effectiveness of the National Protocol for Cooperation on Rodent Control 2000 in meeting its objectives. [278977]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA has no plans to review the effectiveness of the National Protocol for Cooperation on Rodent Control 2000. The protocol provides a mechanism for improved communication and co-ordination between local authorities and sewerage undertakers on the control of rats in sewers.

### Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which species of flora and fauna will be considered as features that will be protected by the proposed network of Marine Conservation Zones. [279914]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* The Marine and Coastal Access Bill provides for the designation and protection of marine conservation zones (MCZs) to conserve rare and threatened species and representative habitats and species in English and Welsh territorial waters and UK offshore waters. All categories of flora and fauna can therefore be considered for protection within MCZs. MCZs, together with marine protected areas designated under existing legislation, will form an ecologically coherent network of sites. The features protected by this network will represent the range of features present in the UK marine area including seabirds.

### Set-Aside Schemes

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Sir Don Curry on the introduction of a voluntary approach to set-aside. [279605]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Sir Don Curry and the High Level Set-Aside Group have been closely involved in considering how to re-capture the environmental benefits of set-aside. In his current advisory role to DEFRA, Sir Don Curry holds regular discussions with the Secretary of State and other Ministers, including in relation to the proposed voluntary approach to set-aside.

### Special Areas of Conservation: Cumbria

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1256-57W, on Special Areas of Conservation: Cumbria, what assessment his Department has made of the recent effect of peat extraction on the Bolton Fell Moss Site of Special Scientific Interest on the site's candidature for designation as a Special Area of Conservation. [278948]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Continued peat extraction over the longer term would have a negative impact on the nature conservation interests at Bolton Fell Moss. Natural England is currently in discussion with the company that owns the peat extraction rights over the measures needed to secure the future protection of the site, and it is hoped that an agreement on this will be reached in the next few months. Natural England's current assessment is that damage caused by peat extraction can be reversed and the nature conservation interest fully restored.

### Trees

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated for the preservation of trees in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997. [278589]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I have been asked to reply.

Local planning authorities are responsible for making and administering tree preservation orders. Funding for this function is contained in the Revenue Support Grant and is not ring-fenced. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Turtles: Conservation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what voluntary contributions have been made by the Government to fund projects which fall under the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia in each year since its inception. [279091]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Since the UK signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South East Asia (IOSEA) in 2002, my Department has contributed £150,000 towards its implementation. Our funding has supported a number of projects, including £10,000 in 2003 for the enhancement of sea turtle conservation in Kenya, £30,000 in 2005 for a survey of leatherback turtle populations in the Indian Ocean and other IOSEA-related projects, and £10,000 in 2006 for the satellite tracking and genetic study of turtles in the British Indian Ocean Territory and Indian Ocean.

A further £15,000 will be paid later this year towards the running costs of the MoU's Secretariat.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Renewable Energy: Pembrokeshire

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Wave Dragon project off the coast of Milford Haven; and if he will make a statement. [279456]

**Joan Ruddock:** An application under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate a 7MW offshore wave device, known as 'Wave Dragon', was made by Wave Dragon Wales Ltd on 26 April 2007 which is currently under consideration, pending further information from the application. It is departmental policy not to comment on the merits of applications under consideration, and a decision will be taken on the application in due course.

### Warm Front Scheme

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* boilers and *(b)* full central heating systems have been installed through the Warm Front Scheme in each of the last three years. [279062]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following tables detail the number of *(a)* boilers and *(b)* full central heating systems installed by Warm Front in each of the last three scheme years and the current year to date.

*(a) Boilers*

| | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 (to end May 2009) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boiler Replacements | 53,436 | 75,600 | 80,458 | 15,072 |

*(b) Central Heating*

| | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 (to end May 2009) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Central heating systems | 30,549 | 28,779 | 23,466 | 5841 |

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Cabinet: Glasgow

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much expenditure was incurred by her Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273935]

**Jonathan Shaw:** For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

### Carer's Allowance: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of carer's allowance in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport. [279758]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information is in the following table.

*Carer's allowance—cases in payment caseloads by local authority of claimant: November 2008*

| Local authority | Number |
|---|---|
| Stockport | 2,190 |
| Tameside | 2,030 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement but who do not actually receive carer's allowance, for example, because of the overlapping benefits rule.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

### Cold Weather Payments

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will assess the appropriateness of the threshold for cold weather payments in respect of those diagnosed with certain medical conditions or taking certain medications whose conditions may be exacerbated by cold weather conditions. [279126]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Cold weather payments help vulnerable groups on low incomes with the extra heating costs which result from periods of very cold weather that last, or are forecast to last, for seven days.

They are paid to people awarded pension credit or income-related employment and support allowance that includes a work-related activity or support component when the temperature criteria is met for their area. Those awarded income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance in the assessment phase, and who have a pensioner or disability premium or have a child who is disabled or under the age of five are also eligible to receive payments.

There are no plans at the present time to change the qualifying criteria for cold weather payments.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget under each budget sub-heading is of each of her Department's employment programmes for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [276439]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 19 May 2009]:* The following table shows the budgets for the Department of Work and Pensions employment programmes, by sub-heading, for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

| Programme | Budgets (to nearest £ million) 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|
| Support for long-term unemployed | 845 | 1,214 |
| Additional support at six months | 145 | 216 |
| Young persons guarantee and future jobs fund | 250 | 838 |
| Lone parents and families | 34 | 63 |
| Support for disabled people | 533 | 567 |
| Other employment programmes | 184 | 202 |
| Totals | 1,991 | 3,100 |

### Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Forest of Dean constituency and *(b)* Gloucestershire who receive disability living allowance gave a visual impairment as the primary reason for claiming that allowance; and if she will make a statement. [277223]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The available information is in the following table.

*Disability living allowance cases in payment where blindness is recorded as the main disabling condition: November 2008*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Forest of Dean parliamentary constituency | 80 |
| Gloucestershire | 510 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to disability living allowance. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.

4. From October 2008 the way in which disabling condition is recorded on the live system changed. Disabling conditions are now recorded as primary and secondary, (previously recorded as disability care and mobility codes). For existing cases a mapping exercise was carried out which assigned disability care code to primary disabling condition and disability mobility code to secondary condition. Information Directorate has updated the methodology used to derive main disabling condition to reflect this change in the live system. The old category D08 (blindness) is now subdivided into a range of more specific condition codes. These are referred to by the over-arching title 'Visual Disorder'.
5. The preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. However, the 5 per cent. sample data are generally the preferred source for analysis on disabling condition as information is more complete for disabling condition on the 5 per cent. sample (Some recipients of disability living allowance who transferred from the attendance allowance system may not have been allocated a specific disabling condition code. This problem can be corrected on the sample data but not on the WPLS data. The number of cases affected is decreasing over time). In this case the WPLS data have been used as some of the caseload figures produced are very small and so would have a high level of statistical variation should the sample data have been used.
*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

## Economic and Monetary Union

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what activities have been undertaken by her Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277168]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Euro Ministers are responsible for euro preparations in their Department and attend Euro Ministers steering group meetings. Meetings are held only when necessary to discuss practical preparations to ensure a smooth changeover.

## Employment

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each age group have been placed in employment by Jobcentre Plus in the last six months. [278263]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The available information is in the following table:

*Jobseekers allowance—off flows into work for the last six months—Great Britain*

| *Aged:* | *November 2008* | *December 2008* | *January 2009* | *February 2009* | *March 2009* | *April 2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| under 17 | 15 | 25 | 10 | 25 | 30 | 40 |
| 17 | 185 | 145 | 60 | 135 | 140 | 165 |
| 18 | 4,775 | 3,585 | 1,480 | 2,825 | 2,880 | 3,315 |
| 19 | 4,865 | 3,765 | 1,725 | 3,550 | 3,830 | 4,295 |
| 20-24 | 23,295 | 17,825 | 8,865 | 19,580 | 19,760 | 21,535 |
| 25-29 | 14,310 | 10,970 | 6,225 | 15,220 | 14,790 | 15,815 |
| 30-34 | 9,900 | 7,390 | 4,560 | 11,165 | 10,615 | 10,975 |
| 35-39 | 9,385 | 7,350 | 4,675 | 10,870 | 10,375 | 10,845 |
| 40-44 | 9,395 | 7,285 | 4,875 | 11,235 | 10,675 | 11,245 |
| 45-49 | 9,015 | 6,915 | 4,575 | 10,435 | 9,820 | 10,425 |
| 50-54 | 7,485 | 5,685 | 3,755 | 8,370 | 8,065 | 8,390 |
| 55-59 | 5,675 | 4,450 | 3,035 | 6,365 | 5,890 | 6,340 |
| 60 and over | 1,155 | 970 | 635 | 1,490 | 1,450 | 1,530 |
| Column total | 99,440 | 76,380 | 44,470 | 101,255 | 98,310 | 104,920 |

*Notes:*
1. The number of off-flows moving into employment include claimants who increased their employment hours beyond 16 per week.
2. This information is published on the Nomis website at:
www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. The percentage of people leaving with an unknown destination recorded has increased over the last 10 years. This is because the completion levels of the JSA40 (forms filled in by people leaving JSA) have decreased over this period. This should be taken into account when interpreting these statistics, as many of these 'unknown' leavers will have moved into employment or other benefits. The data are not seasonally adjusted.
*Source:*
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

## Employment Schemes

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who have completed a work trial placement in the last six months are in employment. [278880]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 10 June 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employers have *(a)* received and *(b)* accepted one or more applications for employment under the work trial scheme in each of the last six months. [278972]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

## Employment Schemes: Finance

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the money allocated by her Department to assist people unemployed for six months, as announced on 12 January 2009, will be classified as *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* employment programme spending for the purpose of her Department's three-year business plan. [278086]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* In the Department's three-year business plan, the total allocation to assist people unemployed for six months as announced on 12 January 2009 is £430 million. Of this, £69 million is allocated to Jobcentre Plus and £361 million is allocated to employment programmes.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what percentage of funding from the Future Jobs Fund has been allocated for jobs in culture, music and the creative industries. [277276]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* Bidding criteria for the Future Jobs Fund were published on 13 May and are available on the Department for Work and Pensions website. The fund will operate as a "challenge fund" to which organisations can bid for funding to create new jobs. The fund will create 150,000 new jobs; 100,000 of these will contribute to a guaranteed offer of a job, training or meaningful activity for all young people who are approaching 12 months on jobseeker's allowance. As such, the funding is not allocated to individual sectors or industries. The Government would welcome bids from all industries, including the culture, media and creative industries.

### Jobcentre Plus: Voluntary Organisations

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps she has taken to ensure that Jobcentre Plus staff are signposting people in urgent need of assistance to foodbanks and other community and charitable organisations which provide assistance for those in financial hardship. [278615]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* Making sure people get the help they need is at the heart of Jobcentre Plus business. A key part of this involves working closely with local partner organisations and signposting people to appropriate sources of help, including charitable organisations and others that provide support services for people experiencing financial hardship.

As part of this Jobcentre Plus is currently developing an additional process for signposting Social Fund customers, who have been refused a crisis loan for living expenses, to relevant local organisations that are willing to provide assistance. To facilitate this process, Jobcentre Plus is identifying and collating details of these organisations to make sure Jobcentre Plus officers are able to signpost people to appropriate sources of help.

### New Deal Schemes

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what contingency plans her Department has in place for a commencement date for the Flexible New Deal after October 2009; what the latest date is upon which a decision to invoke such plans could be made in order to prevent disruption in service delivery; and if she will make a statement; [277072]

(2) how many of the preferred bidders for Flexible New Deal contracts have requested that the delivery timetable be changed to effect delivery start dates after October 2009. [277073]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The Government remain committed to bringing in the Flexible New Deal phase 1 from October 2009. None of the bids received from shortlisted suppliers in the Flexible New Deal competition have indicated they could not start up by the expected date.

If a provider is unable to start delivery in October, suitable contingency arrangements will be agreed for each Jobcentre Plus district involved. Customers will continue to receive support from Jobcentre Plus and have access to the additional support at six months, until the provider is ready to accept referrals. The timing of decisions to invoke contingency arrangements would vary according to individual circumstances, but all phase 1 contract areas will be kept under continuous review before launch to ensure that any required action is identified at the earliest opportunity.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements her Department has made to compensate unsuccessful bidders for Flexible New Deal phase 1 contracts for the costs of the preparations for delivery of the contract from October 2009 they have incurred in advance of the successful bidders being notified; and if she will make a statement. [278171]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* Consistent with Office of Government Commerce guidelines, the Department has made it quite clear in the Flexible New Deal Invitation to Tender documentation that it does not compensate either successful or unsuccessful bidders for any costs incurred with the preparation or submission of bids.

### Woolworths: Redundancy

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to ensure that former Woolworth employees are helped back into work. [279102]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about what steps are being taken to ensure that former Woolworth employees are helped back into work. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Staff in almost all of Woolworths' 800 stores were offered support through our Rapid Response Service before the stores closed. This support included:

job search information, advice and guidance, supplemented by a comprehensive job kit, which covers, for example, how to find work, CV writing and interview preparation;

one to one and group advice on jobs available in the local labour market and on training opportunities to equip them to compete in sectors that are recruiting; and

practical advice on the benefits available while looking for alternative work, which included the issue of over 8,000 clerical claim packs to speed-up the claims process.

For those who claimed Jobseeker's Allowance, a new jobseeker interview was undertaken with an adviser to discuss and agree some realistic and achievable job goals and jobsearch activities that offered the best chance of success. As part of this, the adviser provided information about access to jobs and a range of recently

enhanced opportunities to help improve job prospects and overcome things that may be making it harder to find work. This includes:

jobsearch support for people who are ready for work, but lack recent experience of current jobsearch channels and methods of recruitment;

similar support for customers with a professional or executive background, but provided by a specialist organisation offering expertise in white collar recruitment;

extra help for those people who need more intensive jobsearch support, for example individually tailored help with CVs, interview skills and job applications; and access to resources such as stationery and the Internet;

skills screening and access to provision where appropriate;

extra help through Personal Adviser caseloading for customers who are particularly disadvantaged in the labour market and unlikely to find work without more intensive support;

discretionary funding to help overcome immediate barriers to work;

access to vacancies made available through local employment partnerships;

help to pay costs for travelling to interviews; and

extra help for people with a health problem or disability, for example Access to Work, Work Step, Work Preparation and Job Introduction Scheme

Following the new jobseeker interview, ongoing support is provided through fortnightly jobsearch reviews, which are used to discuss what the customer is doing to find work and to see what further help, if any, is needed.

Even in the current economic climate, over three quarters of people leave Jobseeker's Allowance within six months. For those who do not, we provide more help through the recently announced six-month offer, which includes regular and frequent contact with a personal adviser to help plan and follow-though a course of action that will increase the chances of finding and keeping work. As part of this, the customer has access to a range of employment-related opportunities, including a job subsidy, help for those wishing to become self-employed, volunteering placements and full-time training.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### 1 Carlton Gardens

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the function rooms in 1 Carlton Gardens have been used for *(a)* drinks receptions and *(b)* dinners since July 2007. [279644]

**Chris Bryant:** Since July 2007 the function rooms in 1 Carlton Gardens have been used for 26 dinners and 14 drinks receptions.

### British Overseas Territories: Nature Conservation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 505W, on British Overseas Territories: nature conservation, which projects in the British Overseas Territories have been in receipt of the funding granted since 2006. [279074]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I have been asked to reply.

The following Main-Round Darwin projects have been granted funding under the Darwin Initiative since 2006:

a cross-Caribbean Overseas-Territories project, starting in 2009, aiming at building civil-society capacity for conservation in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories. The UK institution running this project is the Commonwealth Foundation, and total funding commitment amounts to £262,755;

a project in Tristan da Cunha, starting in 2007, aiming to enable the people of Tristan to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity in the marine environment. This is being carried out by the RSPB, and amounts to £75,971; and

a project in Montserrat to reduce the impact of feral livestock in and around the Centre Hills. This project is being carried out by the RSPB, and amounts to £144,236.

The following Scoping Project awards have been granted in the current round:

a project in the Falkland Islands aiming at scoping the development of conservation strategies for Falkland Islands freshwater-fish biodiversity. The project is being led by the University of Wales, and will amount to £2,962;

a project in St Helena scoping work in St Helena's Millennium Forest, taking account of conservation, evolution and a changing climate. This is being led by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, and will amount to £3,000;

a project in Bermuda to assess and conserve critical pollinator communities in Bermuda. This is being led by the University of Leeds, and will amount to £2,200; and

a project in the Falkland Islands to scope the development of a biodiversity and conservation inventory in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. This is being led by the Wales Environment Research Hub, and will amount to £3,000.

### British Overseas Territories: Young Offenders

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many of the personal records held on the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System relate to persons aged 16 years and under; [279058]

(2) whether records of DNA profiles are held on the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System. [279080]

**Chris Bryant:** The Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System (OTRCIS) is a networked computer system set-up in 1996 at the office of the Overseas Territories Law Enforcement Adviser, British Consulate General, Miami. OTRCIS provides the police, customs and immigration departments of the UK's Caribbean Overseas Territories with a crime intelligence and information analysis secure data system. Similar systems are used by the US Military, US State Law Enforcement Agencies, UK, Australian and European local and national law enforcement agencies. There are 1,406,891 records stored on the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System.

The number of records on the Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System that relate to persons aged 16 and under is 2,578.

There are no records of DNA profiles held on the Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System.

### Departmental Surveys

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department last commissioned a staff survey; and which organisation was engaged to conduct that survey. [279804]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office last commissioned a staff survey in 2008. The period during which the survey was available for staff to respond to was 24 November to 12 December 2008.

ORC International were contracted to conduct the survey.

### Gibraltar

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether power generation from renewable energy sources has been trialled in Gibraltar. [279092]

**Chris Bryant:** This is a matter for the Government of Gibraltar. The request for information may be directed to the Government of Gibraltar office in London in the first instance.

### Kosovo

**Mr. Wareing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* Orthodox churches in Kosovo which have been destroyed or damaged since the entry of the NATO Kosovo Force into that country, *(b)* perpetrators which have been arrested and *(c)* convictions of persons held responsible. [279920]

**Chris Bryant:** Records produced by the Serbian Orthodox Church, compiled using information from UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) reports from the time, show that 76 Orthodox churches were destroyed or damaged during the conflict in 1999, and 30 during riots in March 2004. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and UNMIK estimate that, since 1999, a total of 155 Serbian Orthodox churches and monasteries, 250 cemeteries, and approximately 6,750 gravestones have been destroyed or damaged.

Exact figures for the number of perpetrators arrested for acts committed in 1999 are not available, as all damage was recorded as common crime. According to the UNMIK Department of Justice and the Kosovo Judicial Council, during the period December 2005 to March 2006 local prosecutors brought charges against 206 defendants for the destruction of churches in 2004. Of these, 150 were convicted in either municipal or district courts. Separately, international judges and prosecutors handled seven cases relating to destruction of churches in 2004, involving 18 defendants. Of these, 17 were convicted and one acquitted, with sentences ranging from 21 months to 16 years.

### Lord Davies of Abersoch

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of Lord Davies of Abersoch's time devoted to ministerial duties is spent on matters relating to his Department. [279805]

**Chris Bryant:** Lord Davies of Abersoch is the Minister for Trade, Investment and Business. He is a Minister for both the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Lord Davies is responsible for: UK Trade and Investment (reporting jointly to my noble Friend the Business Secretary and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary); advising the Secretary of State and the Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Pat McFadden) on overall business policy; working on specific business issues alongside the Minister for Business and Regulatory Reform (Ian Lucas); the work of the Exports Credits Guarantee Department; Public Service Reform; trade policy; and Europe.

Lord Davies meets regularly with the Foreign Secretary, the ministerial team and the FCO Permanent Under-Secretary, as well as travelling extensively around the overseas network. With such a wide remit it is impossible to apportion the time the Minister spends attending to the work of one Department or another; this is dictated by the priorities of the business of any given day.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Lord Davies of Abersoch has an office in his Department. [279806]

**Chris Bryant:** Lord Davies of Abersoch does not have a designated office in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [279820]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently has seven full-time equivalent members of staff based in the UK working on projects related to the London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games. Of these, project management accounts for four and a half full-time equivalent posts. Legacy planning, project oversight and financial oversight jointly account for the remainder. A small number of full-time equivalent staff overseas will be working on a UK 2012 Public Diplomacy Campaign from this autumn.

The FCO envisages that by 2012, a full team of staff will be working on London 2012 projects including security, protocol, and public diplomacy. However it is difficult to predict at this stage how many staff might be involved in this work.

The British Council currently has 19 full-time equivalent members of staff working on projects related to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. Of these, project management accounts for 13 full-time posts, all of which are overseas. Legacy planning, project oversight and financial oversight jointly account for six full-time posts, all of which are in London. From 2009 to 2013, on existing programmes, the British Council will have a maximum of up to 20 full-time posts working on project management and six full-time posts working on legacy planning, project oversight and financial oversight.

### Somalia: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* reports that Eritrea is arming and supporting Islamic insurgents within Somalia and *(b)* Eritrea's observance of UN resolutions on Somalia. [279785]

**Chris Bryant** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* We are concerned by reports that Eritrea has supplied weapons to insurgent groups in Somalia in contravention to UN Security Council Resolution 733 (1992) on Somalia.

We believe that the issue should be dealt with through existing UN mechanisms and urge any evidence be presented to the UN Sanctions Committee. The UN Sanctions Monitoring Group is due to present its findings on this issue in the coming weeks.

We continue to support the Transitional Federal Government in Somalia and deplore any attempts to disrupt the reconciliation process and undermine efforts towards peace and stability in the country.

### Trade Promotion

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's officials based in the UK work on trade promotion matters; and how many did so in 1997. [279807]

**Chris Bryant:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff in the UK working on trade and investment are based in UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), a joint organisation of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Currently 31 FCO civil servants are working in UKTI in offices in the UK. Two of these staff are on temporary short-term attachments.

Neither the FCO nor UKTI hold data on workforce deployments in 1997.

## TRANSPORT

### Biofuels

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the Statement of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1169, on biofuels, what representations he has made to the European Commission on the inclusion of the effects of indirect land use change in European sustainability criteria for biofuels. [279312]

**Mr. Khan:** During the Renewable Energy Directive negotiations in 2008, the UK Government led the debate in Europe on the need to address the impacts of indirect land use change for biofuels. As per the statement of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 91WS, this resulted in the introduction of a requirement for the Commission to submit a report to the Council and the European Parliament on the impact of indirect land use change on greenhouse gas emissions by 31 December 2010, and where appropriate a proposal for a methodology for accounting for these. The UK Government are conducting research in this area to help inform the debate on what this methodology will look like.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1221-22W, on bus services: concessions, if he will place in the Library a copy of each written representation from local authorities expressing concern. [279991]

**Mr. Khan:** I am not in a position to make correspondence from local authorities publicly available without seeking approval from them first. The authorities that have contacted the Department regarding concessionary travel funding are listed as follows. The hon. Member may wish to contact them directly to obtain a copy of their representation.

Blackpool
Bournemouth
Burnley
Cambridge
Chesterfield
Chichester
Derby
Eastbourne
Erewash
Exeter
Fareham
Fylde
Harrogate
Hastings
Isle of Wight
Lancashire county council
Norwich
Nottingham
Oxford
Peterborough
Plymouth
Scarborough
Stafford
Swindon
Torbay
Weymouth
Worcester
Worthing
York

### c2c

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 294W, on c2c, if he will *(a)* agree and *(b)* publish a timetable for re-letting the c2c franchise. [279411]

**Chris Mole:** The current London, Tilbury and Southend Franchise, operated by c2c, ends in May 2011. The Department for Transport's usual franchise replacement process takes between 18 and 24 months to complete. Initial work on the franchise specification will begin later this year and a timetable published when appropriate.

### Cycling: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to encourage bicycle usage in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [279284]

**Mr. Khan:** Funding provided by the Department for Transport (DfT) to local transport authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. Figures are not available at constituency level.

The Department provides integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities to support capital investment in transport, which may be used for a range of purposes as the authorities see fit. Allocations provided to Essex since 2004-05 are shown in the following table:

| | *Allocation (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 33.638 |
| 2007-08 | 34.946 |
| 2006-07 | 30.009 |
| 2005-06 | 31.888 |
| 2004-05 | 26.876 |

In addition the DfT has provided the following funding for Links to School in Essex:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 235,000 |
| 2006-07 | 277,000 |
| 2007-08 | 76,000 |
| 2008-09 | 195,000 |

We have also provided the following cycle training grants to Essex but it is for the local authority to determine which schools the funding is allocated to:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 10,000 |
| 2009-10 | 26,000 |

### Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many residents of *(a)* Dartford and *(b)* Thurrock have submitted successful applications to the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing Local Resident Scheme to date. [279072]

**Mr. Khan:** There have been 9,156 successful applications from Dartford residents and 8,908 from Thurrock residents.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 485W, on departmental conditions of employment, for what reasons the flexible benefits business plan is considered to be a confidential document. [279450]

**Chris Mole:** The proposed flexible benefits business plan is currently being developed and is an integral part of a protective marked document, which contains sensitive information that could be prejudicial to the interests of the Department for Transport if it was released.

### Departmental Travel

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many journeys officials from his Department have made in vehicles provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency using B5 biodiesel in the last 12 months. [279466]

**Paul Clark:** The Government Car and Despatch Agency does not record whether diesel purchased for use in the one diesel car it allocated to the Department for Transport during 2008-09 was biodiesel blend or ordinary low sulphur diesel. Furthermore, the Agency does not record individual journey details of allocated vehicles. This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

### Fisheries

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 706W, on fisheries; what recent guidance his Department has issued regarding stability criteria for small fishing vessels following the research commissioned by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; and if he will make a statement. [279304]

**Paul Clark:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) is analysing the results of the research that it commissioned on stability criteria for small fishing vessels, and considering its practical applicability to fishing vessel operators.

Following that, the MCA will give consideration to the issue of guidance in due course.

### Heathrow Airport

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received from representative business organisations on his decision on the consultation on adding capacity at Heathrow Airport; if he will review that decision for the purposes of taking account of those representations; and if he will make a statement. [278975]

**Paul Clark:** Decisions on adding capacity at Heathrow airport were announced on 15 January following an extensive period of evaluation and widespread public consultation. The business community has generally supported expansion, recognising the economic benefits, although some business interests have since expressed different views. The Government's position remains unchanged.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 572-3W, on Heathrow airport, what the conclusions of the environmental assessment programme were on the likelihood of meeting the *(a)* noise and *(b)* air quality limits if Heathrow was expanded. [278982]

**Paul Clark:** As explained in the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 572-3W, the conclusions of the environmental assessment programme were as set out in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document published in November 2007, namely that Heathrow could be expanded within the noise and air quality limits at the indicated levels of traffic.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 14W, on Heathrow Airport, for what reasons he decided not to place in the Library a copy of the letter from Colin Matthews of BAA on the proposed expansion of Heathrow Airport. [278983]

**Paul Clark:** As stated in the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 14W, the content of the letter from Colin Matthews of BAA dated 28 November was widely reported in the media at the time and is covered, in full, in a press release titled "Heathrow Airport puts environmental limits before new flights" which can be accessed in the 'News Releases' section of:

www.heathrowairport.com

### Humber Bridge: Tolls

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the Secretary of State plans to respond to the report of the planning inspectors on the proposed increase of the Humber Bridge toll; and if he will make a statement. [279928]

**Mr. Khan:** We are considering the inspectors' report following the public inquiry on the Humber Bridge Board's toll review application and a decision will be made as soon as possible.

### London Gateway Port: Expenditure

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been allocated by London Gateway Port to finance improvements to the *(a)* local and *(b)* strategic road network in the area. [279784]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* Improvements to the local and strategic road networks are required as planning conditions for London Gateway. The allocation of finance by London Gateway Port for the road network improvements is a matter for the port company.

### Motor Vehicles: Insurance

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much his Department has spent on *(a)* programmes aimed at reducing levels of uninsured driving and *(b)* establishing a system of continuous insurance enforcement in each year since 2004; [279582]

(2) how much his Department has spent on the report it commissioned from Professor David Greenaway on uninsured driving in the UK. [279583]

**Paul Clark:** Programmes aimed at reducing levels of uninsured driving have included the Greenaway report of 2004; legislation in the Serious Organised Crime Act 2005 to give the police enhanced access to the Motor Insurance Database together with powers to seize vehicles found in use uninsured on the road; and, preparation for the proposed initiative to introduce Continuous Insurance Enforcement from comparison of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) vehicles database and the Motor Insurance Database.

The approximate costs are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 40,000 |
| 2005-06 | 20,000 |
| 2006-07 | 20,000 |
| 2007-08 | 20,000 |
| 2008-09 | 1,020,000 |

The 2004-05 figure includes the approximate cost of the Greenaway study, at £20,000, and the 2008-09 figure includes £1 million for the DVLA to begin to produce the detailed business case for the Continuous Insurance Enforcement (CIE) project.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the amount uninsured drivers have cost *(a)* motorists with insurance and *(b)* the insurance industry in each year since 2004. [279598]

**Paul Clark:** No official estimates are made.

However, the motor insurance industry estimates that the cost to the average motorist of accidents involving uninsured and untraced drivers is of the order of £30 per year on the premium paid.

The cost to the motor insurance industry can be indicated by the levy made each year by the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) on its members, that is, on all organisations in Great Britain offering motor insurance cover. The levy covers the cost of compensation paid by the MIB to the victims of accidents involving uninsured or untraced drivers. The MIB levy reached the following levels:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 275 |
| 2005 | 325 |
| 2006 | 360 |
| 2007 | 388 |
| 2008 | 377 |

However, the MIB levy takes no account of payments made by insurers in circumstances where, although strictly no insurance cover could be held to be in place, the insurer accepts an obligation to pay. Overall, such payments are estimated to bring the overall cost figure to around £500 million per annum.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects continuous insurance enforcement to be introduced across all insured vehicles. [279599]

**Paul Clark:** Delivery of the continuous insurance enforcement (CIE) scheme is planned to commence in 2010-11 starting with an initial publicity campaign to raise public awareness.

### Motorcycles: Accidents

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on measures to reduce the number of young people killed or seriously injured while riding mopeds; and if he will make a statement. [280119]

**Paul Clark:** A recent report by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) addressed moped casualties. The Government's Motorcycling Strategy sets out a range of measures to improve the safety of all powered two wheeler users, including young moped riders. It was published in February 2005 and a revised action plan was issued in June 2008. This includes THINK! publicity for powered two wheeler and other road users, improvements to rider training, a safer road environment and safer vehicles and equipment.

### Public Transport: Recreational Spaces

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department allocated for transport connections to nature parks in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [280225]

**Mr. Khan:** Funding provided by the Department for Transport to local transport authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. Figures are not available at constituency level.

The Department provides integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities to support capital investment in transport, which may be used for a range of purposes as the authorities see fit. Allocations provided to Essex since 2004-05 are shown in the following table.

| | *Allocation (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 33.638 |
| 2007-08 | 34.946 |
| 2006-07 | 30.009 |
| 2005-06 | 31.888 |
| 2004-05 | 26.876 |

### Public Transport: Tickets

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Crosby (Mrs. Curtis-Thomas) of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1135-6W, on public transport, what meetings his Department has had on the development of the consultation on an integrated ticketing strategy in England since the date of that Answer. [279464]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport has met a number of key stakeholders since 3 February 2009. These include the devolved Administrations, local transport authorities, the Local Government Association, the Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers, independent transport consultants, ticket machine and smart ticketing manufacturers, credit card and payment companies, other Government Departments and a delegation from the Japanese Ministry of Land, Transport and Tourism. The Department has also presented the emerging findings of the strategy work at meetings of the Transport Card Forum and the Transport Group.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Crosby (Mrs. Curtis-Thomas) of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1135-6W, on public transport, when he expects the consultation paper on an integrated ticketing strategy for England to be published. [279465]

**Mr. Khan:** The consultation paper will be published shortly, subject to gaining the necessary approvals for such a cross-cutting policy area.

### Railway Stations: Stockport

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the level of accessibility of rail stations in Stockport; what plans he has to improve accessibility at these stations; and what estimate he has made of the cost of doing so. [279765]

**Chris Mole:** Improving access across the national network is a key objective of the Department for Transport, and a number of stations in the borough of Stockport are benefiting from investment under the Department's Access for All Programme. Stations have been selected based on usage, weighted by the incidence of disability in the area, as set out in the Railways for All Strategy.

Cheadle Hulme and Marple stations have been identified to be provided with obstacle free routes to all platforms by 2011, and Hazel Grove has recently been completed. Network Rail estimate the investment required to deliver these projects at around £5.9 million.

In addition, small schemes funding of £76,000 has been offered to projects with a total value of £329,000 at Brinnington, Gatley, Heald Green, Romily, and Davenport. This funding is providing access enhancements such as help points, hearing induction loops and customer information systems.

Stockport station itself was upgraded by Network Rail in 2002, to provide level access to platforms and to comply with standards in the SRA publication "Train and Station Services for Disabled Passengers: A Code of Practice".

More information about station facilities at a local level is held by train operators and the Association of Train Operating Companies.

### Railways

**John Barrett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what account his Department takes of the effects on tax revenue of modal shifts when assessing the merits of expenditure on high speed rail. [280251]

**Chris Mole:** The account taken of changes in tax revenue from modal shift in the economic appraisal of all schemes, including high speed rail, is set out in the

paper "NATA Refresh—Appraisal for a Sustainable Transport System" published on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/archive/2008/consultnatarefresh/natarefresh2009.pdf

Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of the House.

**John Barrett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has conducted research on modal shifts arising from the introduction of high speed rail. [280253]

**Chris Mole:** We set up the company High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd. to help consider the case for new high speed services from London to Scotland. As part of this work, High Speed 2 will be considering international experience and assessing the scope for modal shift arising from the introduction of high speed rail.

### Railways: Fares

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the average difference between the price of a walk-on train ticket and a ticket for the same journey purchased in advance. [279651]

**Chris Mole:** No estimate has been made. Many routes do not have advance purchase tickets and where they do they vary considerably in price and quota availability.

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of amending all rail franchises to reflect the assumption of an increase in unregulated fares of RPI plus one per cent. made in the new South Central franchise *(a)* in January 2010 and *(b)* on the renewal date of each franchise. [279709]

**Chris Mole:** Unregulated fares are a matter for individual train operating companies. Fares policy relating to unregulated fares has not been amended as a result of the South Central franchise replacement. In this case, the winner's bid is based on unregulated fares increasing on average by RPI +1 per cent. across the life of the franchise, but this is not a contractual commitment.

The Department for Transport has not assessed the cost implications of limiting unregulated fare increases.

### Railways: South East

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 32-34WS, on the South Central Franchise, what the cost to the public purse was of re-letting the franchise. [279706]

**Chris Mole:** The total costs of re-letting the South Central franchise are not yet finalised given that the agreement was only signed on 8 June and some additional costs are likely to be incurred during the mobilisation phase of the project.

However, the external costs invoiced and paid by the Department for Transport to 11 June 2009 are £761,298.

The new franchise will provide a premium to Government of £534 million over five years and 10 months.

### Railways: Trees

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will instruct Network Rail to consult local residents and businesses when planning to undertake tree clearance work on railway embankments. [280393]

**Chris Mole:** This is an operational matter for Network Rail, whose first priority is to operate a safe and reliable railway. However, Network Rail's consultation procedures now involve more proactive local stakeholder consultation.

### Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the likely economic effects on the transport industry of the amendment of the definition of relevant hydrocarbon oil used for the purposes of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation. [279543]

**Mr. Khan:** It is currently very difficult to assess the economic impact the change in the definition of relevant hydrocarbon oil may have had on the transport industry. This is because the Renewable Fuels Agency, who collect and publish data on the supply of biofuels in the UK, will not have a complete dataset of the biofuel supplied for the reporting period 2008-09 (when the change was introduced) until later this year.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of the amendment of the definition of relevant hydrocarbon oil used for the purposes of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation on progress towards his Department's renewable transport fuel targets. [279544]

**Mr. Khan:** The definition of relevant hydrocarbon oil in the 2007 Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation order has now been amended so that the obligation applies to fuel suppliers as originally intended. The effect of the definition on the volume of biofuel supplied in the first obligation year (2008-09) will not be known until later this year. The Renewable Fuels Agency are expected to publish available data shortly.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many certificates issued under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) scheme have been revoked owing to the *(a)* detection of fraud and *(b)* provision of inaccurate information to the Administrator of that scheme since the RTFO came into force. [279545]

**Mr. Khan:** The number of certificates issued under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation scheme that have been revoked owing to the detection of fraud is

zero. The number revoked due to the provision of inaccurate information to the Renewable Fuels Agency as administrator of the scheme is 66,668. This represents a mere 0.005724 per cent. of total certificates.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to include greenhouse gas savings in the targets set out in the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation. [279548]

**Mr. Khan:** Under the EU Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) suppliers of fuel will be required to achieve an overall 6 per cent. greenhouse gas (GHG) saving by 2020 for the fuel they supply compared against 2010 levels. We shall be consulting with stakeholders about how best to implement the FQD requirements into a UK scheme and we shall consider how targets for GHG savings for fuel suppliers might play a role.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what meetings his Department has had with outside organisations to prepare the UK's National Action Plan under the renewable transport fuel obligation. [279549]

**Mr. Khan:** Following the Renewable Energy Directive being adopted in March 2009, officials at the Department for Transport established a stakeholder advisory group with representation from key industry and non-governmental organisations, as a platform for regular consultation on policy options arising from the implementation of this directive. This will include the preparation of the National Action Plan, once the Commission's adopts a template setting out reporting requirements by the end of June 2009.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the potential contribution of electric and hydrogen-fuelled cars towards the 2020 target for the renewable transport fuel obligation; and what methodology was used to make this assessment. [279551]

**Mr. Khan:** Under the EU Renewable Energy Directive there is a specific target for the share of renewable energy use in UK transport by 2020. Following full public consultation, the Department for Energy and Climate Change are due to publish the Government's Renewable Energy Strategy this summer. This will include an assessment of the potential contribution that electric vehicles may have toward the transport target based on uptake scenarios from the recent Arup-Cenex study. Due to the uncertainty around hydrogen vehicle uptake by 2020 and the potential impact toward the transport target, these will not be assessed.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the Government's National Action Plan required under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation will be published; and if he will make a statement. [279552]

**Mr. Khan:** Under the Renewable Energy Directive, the UK is required to submit a completed National Energy Action Plan to the European Commission by 30 June 2010 for their assessment. The Commission will then publish all member states' action plans in their website, alongside any recommendations arising from their assessment. Statements will be made in accordance with due parliamentary process, as and when required.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the likelihood of reaching the target for 3.25 per cent. of all road transport fuel to come from biofuels by 2009-10; and what recent steps he has taken to increase levels of sustainability of biofuels for use in vehicles. [279578]

**Mr. Khan:** The likelihood of reaching an obligation level of 3.25 per cent. for the current obligation year will depend on a number of factors including the availability and cost of biofuels. The 20 pence per litre duty incentive for biofuels will remain until April 2010 and this is likely to continue to incentivise their use during this obligation year.

Under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) suppliers of fuel are required to complete reports on the environmental performance of the biofuels they supply. Biofuels supplied under the first nine months of the RTFO achieved average greenhouse gas savings of 46 per cent. against the Government's indicative target of 40 per cent. The UK has also been instrumental in lobbying for mandatory biofuels sustainability standards across the European Union. These will come into force by December 2010, as a result of the recent EU Fuel Quality and Renewable Energy Directives.

### Road Traffic

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps the Government is taking to address road congestion. [279254]

**Chris Mole:** For strategic roads, the Department for Transport delivers a wide range of measures to tackle congestion through the Highways Agency. On a day-to-day basis these include managing incidents and events more effectively with the Traffic Officer service, preventing incidents with queue warning systems, improving capacity, reducing delays from road works by safely increasing speed limits and delivering better information services to drivers to help them make better choices on how and when they travel.

The current three-year reliability delivery plan is worth £1 billion. In addition, the Highways Agency is planning and undertaking major capital projects. A package of major capacity improvements worth up to £6 billion was announced on 15 January 2009. Investment is paying off with delays now lower than they were when congestion was first measured in 2004-05.

For local roads, transport improvement priorities are determined locally with a sophisticated mix of measures to improve alternatives to car travel as well as general improvements to road capacity and traffic management. Schemes include bus lanes, traffic calming, cycle routes, pedestrian crossings, urban traffic control, park and ride, junction improvements, better information and work with employers and schools on travel plans to promote non-car travel. The Department provided £0.6 billion in 2008-09 for integrated transport improvements. For the 10 largest urban areas, the Department has put in place a congestion performance fund worth £60 million over four years to 2010-11.

### Tyne and Wear Metro

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many passengers have travelled on the Tyne and Wear Metro in each year since 1997; [279250]

(2) how much capital funding his Department and its predecessors provided for Tyne and Wear Metro in each year since 1997. [279253]

**Mr. Khan:** The number of passenger journeys on the Tyne and Wear Metro in each year since 1997 is as follows:

| | *Number of passenger journeys (million)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 35.0 |
| 1998-99 | 33.8 |
| 1999-00 | 32.7 |
| 2000-01 | 32.5 |
| 2001-02 | 33.4 |
| 2002-03 | 36.6 |
| 2003-04 | 37.9 |
| 2004-05 | 36.8 |
| 2005-06 | 35.8 |
| 2006-07 | 37.9 |
| 2007-08 | 39.8 |
| 2008-09 | 40.6 |

Since April 1997 the Government have provided the following specific capital funding:

| | *Purpose* | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 to 2003-04 | Extension of the Metro to Sunderland | 37.465 |
| 2000-01 | Metrocar refurbishment | 0.46 |
| 2002-03 to 2004-05 | Four Lane Ends Bus/ Metro Interchange | 7.62 |
| 2000-01 | CCTV provision | 7.2 |

The Government have also supported investment in the Metro through local transport capital block funding provided to the Tyne and Wear local authorities and the Passenger Transport Executive (Nexus) though the Local Transport Plan (LTP) system and previous arrangements. The proportion of this funding spent on the Metro is a matter for the local LTP partners and information is not held centrally. Nexus has also received grants from the European Commission for Metro capital funding.

In addition the Government have provided an annual subsidy for the Metro in every year since 1997. Up to and including 2004-05 this was provided solely as revenue support although Nexus were able to use this for capital spending on the Metro. Since then the annual subsidy has included the following specific elements of capital grant:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 4.180 |
| 2006-07 | 4.305 |
| 2007-08 | 4.391 |
| 2008-09 | 7.548 |

### York-Beverley Railway Line

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with East Riding of Yorkshire Council on the possibility of reopening the Beverley to York railway line; and if he will make a statement. [279927]

**Chris Mole:** Neither I nor my predecessor have had any recent discussions with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on the possibility of reopening the Beverley to York railway line. The council would be aware that it would be for the local authorities to determine whether reopening the line is the best way to address local transport issues.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of alcohol-related offences resulted in *(a)* cautions, *(b)* conditional cautions, *(c)* penalty notices for disorder and *(d)* criminal convictions in (i) England, (ii) Essex and (iii) Castle Point in each of the last five years. [278009]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* Information showing the number of offenders cautioned for alcohol related offences in England and Essex from 2003 to 2007 is in Table 1.

Information relating to conditional cautions is not available separately. The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

A penalty notice for disorder (PND) may also be issued by the police for certain alcohol related offences such as being drunk and disorderly and drunk in a highway. The number of persons issued with a PND for alcohol related behaviour offences in England and Essex police force area, 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are given in Table 2. The PND scheme was implemented in all 43 police force areas in England and Wales in 2004.

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for alcohol related offences in England and Essex, 2003 to 2007 is in Table 3. These figures relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

It is not possible to further breakdown data to constituency level (i.e. Castle Point) as this level of detail is not held centrally.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Table 1: Number of offenders[1] cautioned for alcohol related offences in England and Essex police force area, 2003 to 2007[2,3,4]*

| Area | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 17,565 | 12,995 | 8,054 | 5,408 | 5,656 |
| Essex police force area | 49 | 28 | 15 | 10 | — |

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 ss.1(2)(3)(4) and 1A(2)(3)(4), 2(1)(2), 5B(2)(3), 5C(3)(4), 5D(2)(3), 6(2); Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 s.1; Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ss.12, 17, 25(3)(a)(b), 25(4)(5), 32; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 ss.5C(5), 6, 6, 19, 28(3), 34, 36, 39(1)(2)(3)(4), 45, 48, 51(4), 53, 59(1)(a)(b), 71(4), 72, 84, 85(2), 89, 155(1)(a), 157(1)(a)(b), 157(1)(b), 159, 160,(1)(a)(b), 161(1)(2), 162, 163, 164(1)(2), 165, 166(1)(a)(b), 167, 168A, 168(1)(2), 169A, 169B, 169C(1)(2)(3), 169E(1), 169F, 169G, 170, 171A(1), 172, 172A, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179A(6), 179B(5)(6), 179E(8), 179H(2), 181A(1)(2)(3), 183(1)(2)(3), 184, 185, 186,187(3)(4), 188, 193(7) Sch.8 Appendix C s. 6, Appendix D; Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 s.1; Licensing Act 2003 ss.33, 40, 41, 46, 49, 56, 57, 59, 82, 83, 93, 94, 96, 108, 109, 123, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 147A, 148, 149(1)(3)(4)(7(a)(b), 150(1)(2), 151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 160,161, 165,168, 179,197, Sch.8 paras 1 and 22; Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 ss.11, 27; Road Traffic Act 1991 s.3; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 ss.7(2), 8, 9(1)(4), 10; Town Police Clauses Act 1847 ss.35, 61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101 (1)(a)(b), (4) and (5); Licensing Act 1902 ss.2, 6(2)(a)(b); Similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 ss.3A, 7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 s.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52; Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 s.3 [Sch. Para. 2, 3(a)(b), 4(1)(2)(3), 5, 6, 7, 8(2), 9(2)]; Licensing Act 1988 s.17,18; Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, s. 19; Children and Young Persons Act 1933 s.5; Criminal Justice Act 1996 s.6.

[2] The cautions statistics cover simple and conditional cautions, reprimands and warnings. They relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

*Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued for alcohol related offences[1] in England and Essex Police Force Area, 2004[2] to 2007[3]*

| Area | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 28,679 | 40,886 | 48,270 | 53,170 |
| Essex police force area | 758 | 831 | 1,017 | 704 |

[1] Includes offences under the:
Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91;
Licensing Act 2003 s.141, 146(1)(3), 149(1)(3)(4), 150(1)(2), 151;
Licensing Act 1872 s.12;
Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 s.12.

[2] The offence of being 'drunk and disorderly' moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 1 November 2004; Sale of alcohol to a person under 18, Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18, Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery, Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises, Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises, were added to the scheme on 1 November 2004; Sale of alcohol to a drunken person, Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18, were added to the scheme with effect from 4 April 2005.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Office for Criminal Justice Reform— Evidence and Analysis Unit

*Table 3: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for alcohol related offences[1] in England and Essex police force area, 2003 to 2007[2,3]*

| Area | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 104,840 | 101,039 | 94,614 | 94,338 | 93,564 |
| Essex | 2,570 | 2,813 | 2,536 | 2,745 | 2,579 |

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 ss.1(2)(3)(4) and 1A(2)(3)(4), 2(1)(2), 5B(2)(3), 5C(3)(4), 5D(2)(3), 6(2); Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 s.1; Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ss.12, 17, 25(3)(a)(b), 25(4)(5), 32; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 ss.5C(5), 6, 6, 19, 28(3), 34, 36, 39(1)(2)(3)(4), 45, 48, 51(4), 53, 59(1)(a)(b), 71(4), 72, 84, 85(2), 89, 155(1)(a), 157(1)(a)(b), 157(1)(b), 159, 160,(1)(a)(b), 161(1)(2), 162, 163, 164(1)(2), 165, 166(1)(a)(b), 167, 168A, 168(1)(2), 169A, 169B, 169C(1)(2)(3), 169E(1), 169F, 169G, 170, 171A(1), 172, 172A, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179A(6), 179B(5)(6), 179E(8), 179H(2), 181A(1)(2)(3), 183(1)(2)(3), 184, 185, 186, 187(3)(4), 188, 193(7) Sch.8 Appendix C s. 6, Appendix D; Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 s.1; Licensing Act 2003 ss.33, 40, 41, 46, 49, 56, 57, 59, 82, 83, 93, 94, 96, 108, 109, 123, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 147A, 148, 149(1)(3)(4)7(a)(b), 150(1)(2), 151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 160, 161, 165, 168, 179, 197, Sch.8 paras 1 and 22; Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 ss.11,27; Road Traffic Act 1991 s.3; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 ss.7(2), 8, 9(1)(4), 10; Town Police Clauses Act 1847 ss.35, 61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101 (1)(a)(b), (4) and (5); Licensing Act 1902 ss.2, 6(2)(a)(b); Similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 ss.3A, 7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52; Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 s.3 [Sch. Para. 2, 3(a)(b), 4(1)(2)(3), 5, 6, 7, 8(2), 9(2)]; Licensing Act 1988 s.17, 18; Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, s.19; Children and Young Persons Act 1933 s.5; Criminal Justice Act 1996 s.6.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Office for Criminal Justice Reform— Evidence and Analysis Unit

## Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been imposed on shoplifters in each year since 2001. [279625]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on the grounds on which ASBOs are imposed is not collated centrally.

## Antisocial Behaviour: South West

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much has been spent per head on tackling anti-social behaviour by each local authority in the South West in each of the last three years; [278952]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to *(a)* the economy and *(b)* the public purse of anti-social behaviour in each local authority area in the South West in the last year for which figures are available. [278953]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** A one day count of antisocial behaviour issues undertaken by the Home Office in 2003 to understand the impact on key service providers estimated that the cost to Government agencies of responding to reports of antisocial behaviour in England and Wales was approximately £3.4 billion per year. The costs related only to the financial costs to agencies of dealing with antisocial behaviour and did not include indirect costs to local communities and businesses, as well as emotional costs to victims and witnesses. The cost of not taking action against antisocial behaviour is much higher.

Information on the amount spent by local authorities, including those in the South West Region, on tackling antisocial behaviour is not collected centrally. Home Office funding for local authorities to tackle antisocial behaviour now form part of the general Area Based Grant (ABG) paid by the Department of Communities and Local Government. This grant is designed to increase the funding flexibility and allow local areas much greater freedom to spend money in a way they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas.

Other Home Office led activities also act to tackle antisocial behaviour, for example the introduction of community support officers in the South West region, but a monetary value cannot be assigned to that contribution. Similarly, other programmes and services contribute, sometimes indirectly, to tackling antisocial behaviour, including diversionary activities for young people, neighbourhood wardens, as well as neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management.

## Civil Nuclear Constabulary: Pay

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the salary structure of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary against relevant public sector comparators. [265921]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Civil Nuclear Constabulary falls under the responsibilities of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

## Crime

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 851-52W, on crime, for which categories of incident data can be provided in respect of 2007-08. [279617]

**Alan Johnson:** Data for 2007-08 are held centrally for all core incident categories as defined in the National Incident Category List (NICL). The following is a complete list as it applied for 2007-08 for all police forces except for the Metropolitan Police Service, for whom only partial data under the antisocial behaviour theme are available. NICL is subject to annual review and amendment, when some categories may be deleted or revised, or new ones created.

*The National Incident Category List (NICL)*

*Transport:*

Road Traffic Collision (RTC)—Death
RTC—Serious Injury
RTC—Minor Injury
RTC—Damage Only
Highway Disruption
Road Related Offence
Transport Incident/Accident Not Recorded Elsewhere

*Antisocial Behaviour:*

Abandoned Vehicles—(Not Stolen Or Causing An Obstruction)
Animal Problems
Begging/Vagrancy
Hate Incident (Only To Be Used By Forces Unable To Use Hate Qualifiers)
Hoax Calls To Emergency Services
Inappropriate Use/Sale/Possession Of Fireworks
Malicious Communications
Noise
Prostitution Related Activity
Rowdy/Nuisance—Environmental Damage/Littering
Rowdy/Nuisance—Neighbours
Rowdy/Nuisance—Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour
Street Drinking
Substance Misuse
Trespass
Vehicle Nuisance/Inappropriate Vehicle Use

*Public Safety/Welfare:*

Abandoned Call
Absconder/AWOL
Alarm: Monitoring Station—False-Active
Alarm: Monitoring Station—False-Withdrawn
Alarm: Police Installed
Alarm: Premises Audible only
Breach Of Injunction/Court Order
Civil Disputes
Collapse/Illness/Injury/Trapped
Concern for Safety
Domestic Incident
Firearms
Immigration
Industrial Incident/Accident
Insecure Property
Licensing
Mental Health
Missing Person-High Risk
Missing Person-Medium Risk
Missing Person-Low Risk
Missing Person-Unauthorised Absence
Natural Disaster/Incident/Warning
Pets/Domesticated Animals
Protest/Demonstration
Sudden Death
Suspicious Circumstances
Suspicious Package/Object
Truancy
Wildlife

*Administration:*
- Advice Matter Only
- Assistance to Other Agency
- Bail/Curfew: Checks/Breach/Wanted Person
- Call made with Good Intent
- Cancel/Exit/Error
- Complaints Against Police
- Duplicate
- Information
- Lost/Found Property/Found Person
- Messages
- Passed to other Agency/Force (Transferred Incident)
- Police Generated Resource Activity
- Pre-Planned Events
- Test/Training

*Qualifiers:*

*Hate/Discrimination:*
- Race
- Religion/Faith
- Gender
- Homophobic
- Transphobic
- Disability (including mental health)
- Age

*Other Characteristics:*
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Other Intoxicants
- Business
- Call Made with Good Intent
- Cold Calling
- Critical Incident
- Domestic Violence
- Firearms
- Information
- Major Incident
- Persistent Caller
- Weapons
- Vulnerable Child/Young Person
- Youth Related

### Crime: Arrests

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested for *(a)* immigration, *(b)* passport, *(c)* drug and *(d)* knife crime offences in the last 12 months. [278110]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, sexual offences, drug offences and robbery. Data on arrests for immigration, passport and knife crime offences are not available as it is not possible to identify specific offences from within the offence groups.

In 2007-08 (latest available) there were 104,532 persons arrested for drug offences in England and Wales.

The records held by the UK Border Agency for immigration offenders arrested nationally for immigration related offences, including passport and documentation offences, show that 10,750 offenders were arrested in 2007-08. These UK Border Agency figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

The UK Border Agency adopts an intelligence and target led approach to operations and our top priority has been to protect the public and remove from the UK the most harmful people first. Based on UK Border Agency management information 5,395 foreign national prisoners were removed in 2008—exceeding our target of 5,000.

### Crime: Parking

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to bring forward proposals to make nuisance parking on unadopted roads a criminal offence. [280267]

**Mr. Khan:** I have been asked to reply.

Traffic authorities already have wide-ranging powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to make Traffic Regulation Orders to restrict parking on any highway and other road to which the general public has access.

### Cybercrime

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many websites were closed down by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency's E-Crime Unit in 2008-09. [278431]

**Alan Johnson:** The responsibility for closing down fraudulent or malicious websites rests with communication service providers, who act on a variety of information including that which may have been provided by SOCA. SOCA is only directly involved in the closure of the site in the event that the provider has failed to respond to a take down notice, or if data need to be preserved or acquired for a statutory purpose.

During 2008-09, there were more than 36 separate occasions where the e-Crime department was directly involved in the removal of such websites.

### Departmental Older Workers

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65 years his Department employs. [278145]

**Mr. Woolas:** As at 30 April 2009 the Home Office employed 3,315 staff aged over 55.

Of these, 115 are over 65 years.

### Deportation: Vietnam

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Vietnamese *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have been deported from the UK in the last three years. [278934]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only by the examination of individual Home Office files at disproportionate cost.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

## Deportation: Zimbabwe

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* have been forcibly removed to and *(b)* returned voluntarily to Zimbabwe in each week of 2009. [278555]

**Alan Johnson** *[holding answer 10 June 2009]:* The requested information is not available. The following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures from the United Kingdom to Zimbabwe between January and March 2009, by month and type of departure. This is the latest period in 2009 for which published information is available.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

*Removals and voluntary departures[1] to Zimbabwe[2], by month and type, January to March 2009[3]*

*Number of departures[4]*

| | *January* | *February* | *March* | *Quarter 1 2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total removals and voluntary departures to Zimbabwe | 10 | 30 | 30 | 75 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed[5] | * | * | — | 5 |
| Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures[6] | 5 | 5 | 5 | 15 |
| Assisted voluntary returns[7] | 5 | 20 | 25 | 50 |
| Other voluntary departures[8] | * | 5 | * | 10 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] Destination as recorded on source database.
[3] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.
[4] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.
[5] Includes removals performed by immigration officers at ports using enforcement powers and cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.
[6] Since October 2006, figures include persons leaving under Facilitated Return Schemes.
[7] Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.
[8] Persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

## Detention Centres

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times he has visited immigration removal centres in the last 12 months. [278108]

**Mr. Woolas:** My right hon. Friend the Member for Redditch (Jacqui Smith), the former Home Secretary visited one immigration removal centre (IRC) in the past 12 months—she opened Brook House IRC on 18 March 2009.

## Entry Clearances: Religious Persons

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the new regulations for religious workers who apply for a visa to enter the UK; how many applicants have been refused under the new arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [276435]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 20 May 2009]:* There are provisions for religious workers to enter the UK under the new points based system, using Tier 2: Minister of Religion Route or Tier 5 Religious Worker. Both of these tiers were implemented on 27 November 2008. During the development of this policy and since implementation, officials have engaged with faith communities about these provisions. As the points based system beds in, it will undergo further evaluation.

In answer to the request for refusal figures, we are planning to publish information in August which will address grants and refusals. We will be able to provide the information requested at this point.

## Entry Clearances: Sports Competitors

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications were received for sports visas in each of the last five years; and what percentage of each were approved in each such year. [277437]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The data are not available as visas for sportspersons were not identified separately for the period in question.

## Forensic Science Service

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the likely effects of the proposed restructuring of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) on *(a)* the efficiency with which crimes will be solved and *(b)* the range of services and expertise available at the FSS. [280252]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The transformation of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) was announced by written ministerial statement on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 21WS. The FSS will continue to provide its services to

its customers throughout this period of change and the process of re-organisation is to make the business more efficient, more cost-effective and to consolidate its expertise so that it can compete more effectively in the competitive market for forensic procurement.

The way in which forensic science services are procured has changed significantly with the introduction of the National Forensic Procurement Framework, which is designed to improve the effectiveness of police procurement in this area.

It should be emphasized that at present all proposals are subject to collective consultation which was launched on 8 June 2009.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Minister authorised the proposed job restructuring at the Forensic Science Service. [280401]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The transformation of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) was announced by written ministerial statement (WMS) on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 21WS. As the WMS makes clear, the transformation programme is the central focus of the FSS Strategic Business Plan presented by the board to the Home Office in December, and now approved following rigorous consultation with HM Treasury.

There are as yet no firm proposals for restructuring, the FSS has launched a consultation process on a major transformation programme, with the support of the Home Office shareholder.

## G20: Greater London

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 595W, on G20: Greater London, what accommodation was used by the 329 police officers from other forces while they were in London. [278430]

**Alan Johnson:** Out of the 329 non-Metropolitan police officers involved in the policing of the G20 protests referred to in the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 594-95W, 80 were accommodated at a central London hotel. The rest did not require accommodation.

## Gurkhas

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he plans to take in response to the Nepalese Government's request that his Department's policy on former Gurkha soldiers introduced in 2004 be applied to all former Gurkha soldiers. [280395]

**Mr. Woolas:** Policy introduced in 2004 enables those who served in the Brigade of Gurkhas, for a minimum of four years, on or after July 1997 to apply for settlement in the United Kingdom.

On 21 May 2009, the Home Secretary announced that new guidance would be published to make it clear that those who served between 1945 and 1997 and who have served a minimum of four years would be eligible to apply for settlement. This guidance has now been published.

## Human Trafficking

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 512W, on human trafficking, what the nationalities were of those *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted of human trafficking offences in the UK in each of the last five years. [277147]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The list of countries of origin to date of those arrested and/or convicted of human trafficking offences is set out as follows:

United Kingdom
Nigeria
Somalia
Romania
Poland
Spain
Lithuania
Latvia
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Kosovo
Turkey
Thailand
Malaysia
Pakistan
Albania
Hungary
Moldova
Vietnam
Slovakia
Congo
Brazil
China
Ukraine
Czech Republic
Portugal
Serbia
Germany
Philippines
Macedonia
Greece

## Immigration

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of stateless people residing in the UK. [271503]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* As signatories to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons ('the Stateless Convention') we fulfil our Convention obligations, including recognition of the definition of stateless contained in Article 1 of the Convention.

No estimate has been made of the number of stateless people residing in the UK by the Home Office.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance is available to stateless people in the UK. [271504]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* As signatories to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons ('the Stateless Convention') we fulfil our convention obligations, including recognition of the definition of stateless contained in article 1 of the convention.

There is no provision in primary legislation or in the Immigration Rules that provides for assistance to be made available to a person on the basis of a claim that they are stateless. As with any other person subject to immigration control, a person claiming to be stateless will only be eligible for publicly funded assistance in limited circumstances: if they have applied for leave to enter or remain in the UK under the Immigration Rules, or if they have made a claim for international protection, and meet the criteria for specific assistance as applicable. While each case would be considered on its merits, in practice stateless people who are granted international protection would be eligible for assistance.

**Immigration Controls**

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants entered the UK under Tier 1 of the points-based system in 2008. [278551]

**Mr. Woolas:** During 2008, a total of 12,052 visas were issued to non-EEA nationals for entry to the UK under tier 1 of the points based system.

These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

**Immigration: Armed Forces**

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Gurkhas and *(b)* other foreign nationals who have served in the armed services have been granted the right to settle in the UK in each of the last 20 years. [277070]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of main applicants granted settlement as a former member of the armed forces is set out in the following table.

| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gurkhas | 214 | 2,115 | 3,123 | 578 | 98 | 6,128 |
| Commonwealth | 6 | 48 | 181 | 288 | 140 | 663 |
| Total | 220 | 2,163 | 3,304 | 866 | 238 | 6,791 |

Data from earlier than 2004 is not available.

Please note this is Management Information and is not a National Statistic.

**Immigration: Gurkhas**

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Gurkhas have been deported in each of the last five years. [273740]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. These statistics are broken down by nationality only. To disaggregate Gurkhas from these statistics could be done only through the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

**Immigration: Vietnam**

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Vietnamese children were being held in custody on the latest date for which information is available. [278935]

**Mr. Woolas:** National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers by country of nationality as at 31 March 2009 are published in Table F of the supplementary tables to the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom: January - March 2009 bulletin; this is the latest date for which published information is available. Copies of this publication are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

**Joint Education Taskforce**

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who represents his Department on the Joint Education Taskforce; and what their role on the taskforce is. [278546]

**Mr. Woolas:** An official at director level is chair of the Joint Education Taskforce. The Joint Education Taskforce provides a joint forum for the agency and education establishments to consider the development and implementation of the points based system for managing the flow of migrants coming to the UK to study.

**Offensive Weapons: Wales**

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of homicide involving killing by a sharp instrument there were in *(a)* Dyfed Powys police force area and *(b)* Wales in each of the last 10 years. [279451]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Available information is from the Homicide Index and relates to the number of homicides recorded between 1998-99 and 2007-08.

*Homicides currently recorded[1] where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2]: Dyfed-Powys police force area and Wales region, 1998-99 to 2007-08*

| Year[3] | Number | |
|---|---|---|
| | Dyfed-Powys | Wales |
| 1998-99 | 2 | 121 |
| 1999-2000 | 0 | 9 |
| 2000-01 | 1 | 7 |
| 2001-02 | 0 | 14 |
| 2002-03 | 3 | 10 |
| 2003-04 | 0 | 3 |
| 2004-05 | 0 | 13 |
| 2005-06 | 2 | 7 |
| 2006-07 | 1 | 11 |
| 2007-08 | 1 | 11 |

[1] As at 4 November 2008; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Includes knives as well as other sharp instruments.
[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported incidents of *(a)* attempted murder, *(b)* wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (GBH) and *(c)* wounding or inflicting GBH without intent by use of a knife or sharp instrument there were in (i) Dyfed Powys police force area and (ii) Wales in each of the last 10 years. [279452]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Available information for knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences is provided for 2007-08 only. Data are not available for previous years.

*Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences, 2007-08*

| | Number of offences involving a knife[1] | |
|---|---|---|
| | Dyfed Powys | Wales |
| Attempted murder | 3 | 5 |
| Wounding with intent to do GBH[2] | 31 | 499 |
| Wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm GBH (i.e. without intent)[3] | 31 | 110 |

[1] In this table "offences involving a knife" refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument.
[2] A clarification in counting rules from April 2008 has affected recording of offences in this category.
[3] Includes racially or religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting GBH. The definition of this category altered from April 2008.

## Police National Computer: Data Protection

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police staff have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed for unauthorised or improper use of the Police National Computer database in each of the last five years. [276824]

**Alan Johnson:** This information is not held centrally, the use of information on the PNC is a matter for individual police forces as is the investigation, discipline and dismissal of police staff.

Access to information on the PNC requires authorisation and the user system logs both what information the user requests and what they are ultimately shown.

The National Policing Improvement Agency has no evidence of the system being breached in the last five years. Any incidents would be addressed by the relevant police force.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of data on the Police National Computer being supplied to individuals unauthorised to receive it have been recorded in each of the last five years. [276832]

**Alan Johnson:** The National Policing Improvement Agency has no evidence of any system breaches within the last five years. Access to information on the PNC requires authorisation and the user system logs both what information the user requests and what they are ultimately shown. Any incidents involving users accessing data for unauthorised purposes would be a matter for the relevant police force.

## Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what investigatory procedure is followed in circumstances where a serving police officer is alleged to have acted unlawfully in the course of his duties; what procedure is followed to determine which authority is competent to carry out an investigation; and whether the Independent Police Complaints Commission may carry out such investigations. [279628]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) deals with complaints and allegations of misconduct against police officers in England and Wales, including allegations of criminal behaviour. The police must refer certain types of incidents to the IPCC. These include allegations of a serious criminal offence.

When a matter is referred to the IPCC, it makes a Mode of Investigation (MOI) decision to determine how the case should be investigated. Irrespective of any allegation of criminality, the IPCC may investigate it independently or return it to the force to be dealt with.

## Serious Organised Crime Agency

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases relating to *(a)* drugs, *(b)* firearms and *(c)* counterfeit currency have been referred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) by HM Revenue and Customs; and how many such cases have been investigated by SOCA. [278436]

**Alan Johnson:** Under arrangements agreed between HM Revenue and Customs and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), HM Revenue and Customs notify SOCA of seizures made at ports that meet specific criteria. SOCA undertakes systematic checks on every notification, but investigates only where the size of the seizure, significance of the criminals involved and operational opportunities presented are assessed as appropriate for further action, in line with the priorities set in the UK Organised Crime Control Strategy.

In the period 1 September 2007 to 30 April 2009, within the framework:

*(a)* SOCA received 161 notifications relating to drugs and adopted 29 of these for criminal investigation.

*(b)* SOCA received three notifications relating to firearms, none of which was adopted for criminal investigation by SOCA.

*(c)* SOCA received one notification relating to counterfeit currency which was not adopted for criminal investigation by SOCA.

The notifications that are not adopted for criminal investigation were debriefed by SOCA and, wherever appropriate, progressed by another law enforcement agency.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Serious Organised Crime Agency's proceeds of crime targets were in respect of *(a)* cash seizure, *(b)* cash forfeiture, *(c)* restraint orders, *(d)* confiscation orders and *(e)* civil recovery in 2008-09. [278437]

**Alan Johnson:** Targets for 2008-09 were published in the Serious Organised Crime Agency's Annual Plan for that year as follows:

*(a)* There was no target for cash seizure

*(b)* £6 million cash forfeiture

*(c)* There was no external target as restraint is used to prevent the dissipation of assets during investigation. However, SOCA set an internal target of £62.5 million for restraint orders.

*(d)* £46 million confiscation—this figure was made up of £42million of confiscation orders obtained by SOCA and £4 million of confiscation orders enforced by SOCA on confiscation cases inherited from the Assets Recovery Agency.

*(e)* There was no SOCA civil recovery and tax target, but an overall HMG target of £16 million.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested on suspicion and *(b)* convicted of offences relating to organised immigration crime as a result of operations by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [278438]

**Alan Johnson:** In 2007-08, there were 129 arrests and 30 convictions as a result of operations where organised immigration crime was the main focus. In 2008-09 there were 140 arrests and 15 convictions as a result of operations where organised immigration crime was the main focus.

In addition to the numbers arrested and convicted as a result of investigations into organised immigration crime, others were dealt with "administratively" under immigration powers, for example by deportation or exclusion.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Serious Organised Crime Agency Annual Report 2008-09, how many of the 5,000 criminals on record with the Serious and Organised Crime Agency as a result of its operational activity have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of offences as a result of the Agency's activity. [278440]

**Alan Johnson:** The figure of 5,000 persons of interest includes individuals who are outside UK jurisdiction or are already in prison. During SOCA's first three years of operation, its work led to the prosecution of 920 and the conviction of 863 individuals.

### Serious Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many liaison officers are employed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency; and what their average annual salary is. [278705]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** As of 1 June 2009, the Serious Organised Crime Agency had 104 liaison officers based overseas. Liaison officer grades and salaries vary according to the post and responsibilities, but the majority of liaison officers are on a salary in the range of £40,586 to £54,050.

### Serious Organised Crime Agency: Marketing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on marketing and advertising by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each of the last three years. [278442]

**Alan Johnson:** The only expenditure SOCA has incurred on advertising and marketing has been on recruiting for staff, on which the following was spent:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 83,000 |
| 2007-08 | 141,000 |
| 2008-09 | 340,000 |

### UK Border Agency: Correspondence

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 29 April 2009 on a constituent, reference B14712/9. [278498]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 21 May 2009.

### UK Border Agency: Telephone Services

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will allocate an 0300 telephone prefix to the UK Border Agency's telephone numbers in order to reduce the cost of telephone calls to mobile telephone users; and if he will estimate the likely level of savings to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service users of introducing such a change. [278374]

**Mr. Woolas:** The agency is currently reviewing moving all of its main contact centre numbers to 0300 numbers and has recently transferred its Sponsorship and Employer Helpline to an 0300 number.

From 1 August 2009 changes to 0870 numbers will come into effect. Ofcom has ruled that the cost to a caller of making an 0870 call must be the same as an 0300 call. UKBA callers will therefore be charged the same irrespective of whether they call an 0870 or an 0300 number from 1 August 2009.

The actual cost to the caller will depend upon their agreement with their service provider according to their geographic 01 or 02 rates, whether they call from a mobile or a landline.

The UK Border Agency does not receive revenue from 0870 or 0300 numbers.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer question 262469, tabled on 5 March 2009, on fines imposed on those selling alcohol to underage people. [278298]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The hon. Member's question was answered on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 709-12W.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Chorley Borough Council: Bank Services

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information he holds on the sum to be repaid to Chorley Borough Council from its deposit with Landsbanki; and when he expects the repayment to be made. [280053]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Central Government do not hold the information requested. The resolution committee for the bank, on which local authorities are represented, has published information on likely rates of return. The timetable of the administration process is a matter for the administrators. The Government have been doing everything they can to help local authorities, along with other creditors, get their money back. High-level discussions continue to ensure the fair and transparent treatment of UK creditors.

### Chorley Borough Council: Complaints

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints have been received by Chorley Borough Council on council services in each of the last four quarters. [280410]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** This information is not held centrally. This information can be obtained from the local authority.

### Council Housing: Property Transfer

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* turnout and *(b)* result was of each local authority large-scale voluntary transfer of housing ballot since 1997. [279267]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** A table has been deposited in the Library setting out the turnout and the result of each local authority large-scale voluntary transfer of housing ballot since 1997.

### Council Housing: Waiting Lists

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average waiting time for a person to obtain local authority housing with disabled access in Stockport was in the latest period for which figures are available. [279756]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The information requested is not supplied via the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA), nor through any other central reporting system submitted to Communities and Local Government, and as such the Department does not hold this information.

### Councillors: Thames Gateway

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments have been made by Thames Gateway to councillors for participation in Thames Gateway meetings and activities in the last 12 months. [275631]

**Mr. Malik:** None.

### Derelict Land: Property Development

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of new homes were built on brownfield sites in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport in each year since 1997. [279760]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The proportions of new dwellings built on previously developed land by local authority area are published in the Department's Land Use Change Statistics Live Table 213. This table can be found at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

The statistics are shown as for averages for the following periods 1992-95, 1996-99, 2000-03, 2004-07. Estimates for individual years at district level are not regarded as reliable.

### Eco-Towns

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account the regional spatial strategy planning process will take of eco-town sites. [280033]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS)—Eco-towns—consultation published in November 2008 sets out that eco-towns are one of a range of options regions should consider when determining the overall level and distribution of housing in future RSS reviews. The draft PPS adds that where an eco-town location has already been identified in the eco-towns programme or in a development plan document or where a planning applications for an eco-town has been approved, regions should consider the location or the longer-term growth options for the eco-town.

The consultation period for the draft PPS concluded on 30 April and Government are currently considering the responses to the consultation.

### Empty Property: Merseyside

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 512-14W, what recent steps he has taken to reduce the number of long-term empty dwellings in Merseyside. [278596]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We work closely with the independent Empty Homes Agency to encourage local authorities to tackle empty homes in their areas. Through the Housing Act 2004, we have introduced new powers to allow local authorities to take over the management of private sector empty homes (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) where a voluntary approach is not successful. We are supporting the Empty Homes Agency's new guidance on EDMOs, which was launched on 10 March. The guidance is internet based and interactive and takes local authorities through the EDMO process step by step. My right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) provided a foreword for the guidance.

The Department hosted an empty homes seminar for a number of local authorities on 23 April to provide an opportunity to discuss the obstacles facing authorities in dealing with empty homes, share examples of best practice, and encourage them to take action to tackle empty homes in their area.

### Fires

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 749W, on fires, what categories of household items are included in the statistical reporting of fire incidents as *(a)* item first ignited and *(b)* other. [280364]

**Mr. Malik:** Under the previous system of reporting fires, which ended in March 2009, the main headings of household items categories are as follows:

cooking
heating
lighting
other (electrical appliances)
clothing and textiles
furniture and furnishings
waste, other (mostly paper items).

All categories are listed on pages 40 to 49 of the "Fire Data Report Code List (version 5)".

Similar categories are in use under the new Incident Recording System, and these are listed on pages 67 to 72 of "Incident Recording System Questions and Lists (version 1.1)". Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library of the House.

### Home Information Packs

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 441-3W, on home information packs, for what reasons the public relations work relating to home information packs undertaken by Blue Rubicon was contracted out. [276922]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The public relations work relating to home information packs undertaken by Blue Rubicon was contracted out in order to provide value for money. The agency selected was from the Central Office of Information public relations framework.

### Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority spent on administration in 2008-09; [280402]

(2) what the budget of the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority was for 2008-09. [280405]

**John Healey:** In respect of the Homes and Communities Agency, I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) gave him on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 113-14W.

The Tenant Services Authority's final budget figures will be published in their annual report and accounts to be laid before Parliament later this year.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the *(a)* Tenant Services Authority and *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency to publish accounts for 2008-09. [280403]

**John Healey:** The 2008-09 accounts for the Tenant Services Authority and the Homes and Communities Agency will be published later this year.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [280404]

**John Healey:** Funding for 2009-10 and 2010-11 for the Homes and Communities Agency will be set out in the HCA's corporate plan.

For the Tenant Services Authority's funding, I refer the hon. Member to the response given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 78W, to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow).

### Housing: Construction

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were built in Milton Keynes in each of the last 48 months. [280347]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** New house building statistics are not collected on a monthly basis, but on a quarterly basis. The number of new build homes completed in Milton Keynes in each of the last eight quarters is shown in the table.

| | Number |
|---|---|
| *2007* | |
| Quarter 2 | 547 |
| Quarter 3 | 596 |
| Quarter 4 | 1,071 |
| *2008* | |
| Quarter 1 | 286 |
| Quarter 2 | 554 |
| Quarter 3 | 603 |
| Quarter 4 | 358 |
| *2009* | |
| Quarter 1 | 308 |

**Housing: Expenditure**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on capital expenditure on housing in each year since 1997. [277998]

**Mr. Ian Austin** *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* The following table summarises the investment in housing since 1997. This includes grants to the private sector, contributions to registered social landlords, and expenditure on council-owned housing stock.

| | Investment in housing (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 1,894 |
| 1998-99 | 2,098 |
| 1999-2000 | 2,173 |
| 2000-01 | 2,866 |
| 2001-02 | 3,312 |
| 2002-03 | 3,598 |
| 2003-04 | 4,685 |
| 2004-05 | 4,767 |
| 2005-06 | 5,106 |
| 2006-07 | 5,194 |
| 2007-08 | 5,606 |
| 2008-09 | [1]6,122 |

[1] Unaudited figure; this was the planned expenditure for 2008-09.

**Housing: Finance**

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's plans to refocus housing and planning delivery grant on the level of grant allocated to local authorities. [280032]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) Consultation on allocation mechanism for year 2 and year 3 was published on 12 May 2009. The closing date for responses is 23 June 2009, consideration will then be given to the responses to the proposed changes to the allocation mechanism.

**Housing: Low Incomes**

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has issued to local authorities and planning bodies on ensuring that affordable housing development meets local needs. [280283]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Planning Policy Statement 3, published in November 2006, says that local development documents and regional spatial strategies should be informed by a robust, shared evidence base, in particular, of housing need and demand, and that this evidence should be used to set an overall target for the amount of affordable housing to be provided.

In August 2007, the Government published guidance on completing a strategic housing market assessment. The guidance sets out a framework that local authorities and regional bodies can follow to develop a good understanding of how housing markets operate. It promotes an approach to assessing housing need and demand which can inform the development of local development documents and regional spatial strategy planning for housing policies.

**Infrastructure Planning Commission**

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the remuneration for the post of chairman of the Infrastructure Planning Commission will be made personally to Sir Michael Pitt. [280035]

**John Healey:** The remuneration due to Sir Michael Pitt as chair designate of the Infrastructure Planning Commission is being paid to him in accordance with the terms of his appointment, following the deduction of the appropriate income tax and national insurance contributions.

**Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007**

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the councillor call for action powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 were implemented; and if he will make a statement. [280036]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Councillor call for action gives councillors a new right to raise matters of local concern with their council's overview and scrutiny committee. It is a valuable tool for equipping councillors to act as powerful advocates for the communities they serve and to strengthen still further their role as community champions.

Councillor call for action for local government matters came into force 1 April 2009.

**Local Government: Legal Opinion**

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on their use of external legal advice; and if he will make a statement. [278951]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department has issued no such guidance.

**Local Government: Procurement**

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken to promote the uptake of collaborative procurement strategies within local authorities, as recommended in HM Treasury's May

2009 review, Operational Efficiency Programme: collaborative procurement. [279716]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Surveys commissioned by the Department have shown that over three-quarters of councils already use purchasing consortia. To promote further action in this area, Bill Roots's Review of arrangements for efficiencies from smarter procurement in local government, published in February, recommended that Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) should act as the conduit for best deals, with local authorities deciding which deals to buy into. This would require effective communication between RIEPs and local authorities about the opportunities and benefits from engaging in collaborative procurement. The LGA and RIEPs are deciding how to implement these recommendations, which support delivery of those in the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP).

In respect of fire and rescue authorities, Spikes Cavell have been commissioned to undertake work on spend management. The revised Fire and Rescue Service National Procurement Strategy, due to be published in July, will reflect the recommendations from the OEP.

## Planning Permission

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 141W, on planning permission, by how much grant allocation will be reduced if a local planning authority does not complete its priority development plan documents in accordance with the agreed time scale *(a)* in 2008-09 and *(b)* under the plans for the new Housing and Planning Delivery Grant system. [279789]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The mechanism for Housing and Planning Delivery Grant HPDG was set out in the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant—Allocation Mechanism and Summary of Consultation Responses which was published in July 2007. The mechanism for determining HPDG for 2008-09 is set out in that document which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/doc/hpdgresponse

Where a local authority's development plan documents are not delivered in accordance with agreed timetable the amount of grant is reduced as set out in the following table.

*Percentage of grant paid*

| *Development plan document (DPD) stage* | *On time* | *>35 and <190 days late* | *>189 and <365 days late* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Submission | 40 | 25 | 0 |
| Adoption | 60 | 35 | 20 |
| Total award for DPDs | 100 | 60 | 20 |

We are currently consulting on proposed changes to the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) Consultation on allocation mechanism for year 2 and year 3 which was published on 12 May 2009. The closing date for responses is 23 June 2009. The consultation document does not propose any changes to the mechanism for the delivery of development plan documents.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to local planning authorities on Section 106 agreements with *(a)* parish councils and *(b)* voluntary organisations applying to build community facilities. [279924]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Government's policy on the use of planning obligations (also known as section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) is contained in 'Circular 05/2005: Planning Obligations'. Further guidance on the use of planning obligations is provided by the publication 'Planning Obligations: Practice Guidance', published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2006. Both publications are available on the Department's website.

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has received on the infringement of land title or other rights by planning law in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [280398]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Communities and Local Government received 69 responses to the consultation paper "Overriding easements and other rights: Possible amendment to section 237 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990", which was published in August 2007. The responses indicated a strong degree of support for the proposed amendment and the amendment was included in schedule 9 of the Planning Act 2008. The consultation paper and a summary of the consultation responses is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/planningandbuilding/easementsconsultation

## Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was allocated through the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund to each regional Government office in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [278690]

**Mr. Malik:** The funding provided through the £6 million Preventing Violent Extremism Fund in 2007-08, and the funding provided through the Area Based Grant in 2008-09 to support local Prevent work, is paid directly to local authorities. A list of funding for 2007-08 and 2008-09, broken down by Government office region, is provided in the following table:

*Regional breakdown of PVE pathfinder funding 2007-08 and 2008-09*

£

| *Region* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|
| London | 2,080,377 | 4,865,000 |
| North West | 1,205,000 | 2,300,000 |
| West Midlands | 800,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 550,000 | 1,210,000 |
| South East | 450,000 | 1,005,000 |
| East of England | 380,000 | 520,000 |
| East Midlands | 300,000 | £665,000 |
| North East | 120,000 | 230,000 |
| South West | 80,000 | 125,000 |

### Private Rented Housing

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an impact assessment has been produced for his Department's plans for a national registration system for landlords in the private rented sector. [279944]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** An impact assessment for our proposals for a national register for landlords has been placed on my Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/impactassessmentlandlords

### Property Development: Floods

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to review planning guidance issued by his Department in respect of development on flood plains following the recommendations made in the Pitt Report on the summer flooding 2007. [279311]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer 2007 floods found that the policy approach in Planning Policy Statement 25, "Development and Flood Risk", (PPS25) is sound and should be rigorously applied. The Government agreed with the review report's recommendations on planning and flood risk. We are therefore continuing to keep the operation and effectiveness of PPS25 under review.

We are currently considering what amendments it would be appropriate to make to update the Practice Guide to PPS25, which provides practical advice to local authorities on implementing the policy, to ensure the guidance remains relevant and clear.

### Railways: Trees

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide for *(a)* the application of preservation orders to trees situated alongside railway embankments and *(b)* local authorities to intervene in respect of Network Rail proposals to remove such trees. [280394]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Local planning authorities can already make preservation orders to protect trees on Network Rail property, including railway embankments. Local planning authorities can also intervene on proposals by Network Rail to undertake works on such trees. Network Rail, as a statutory undertaker, has an exemption within the legislation to undertake works to protected trees which is necessary for public safety. Otherwise it must apply to the local planning authority for consent to undertake work to its protected trees, as any other person or organisation would.

### Recreation Spaces

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department's Green Spaces Hub will hold any data relating to green space in private ownership. [279876]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** None of the data sets in the Green Spaces Hub identifies land ownership.

The Green Spaces Hub makes available in one place data sets on green and open spaces that are owned by several public sector organisations. Some of these data sets identify only public sector managed land while others identify land parcels, and therefore ownership could be private or public. In these cases there is no ownership designation.

### Regional Planning and Development

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to publish the final regional spatial strategy for the South West before the end of June 2009. [279573]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** We intended to issue the final regional spatial strategy for the South West at the end of June. However, on 20 May, the High Court issued a judgment that the previously issued regional spatial strategy for the East of England had failed to meet certain requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, in respect of three towns. My Department and the Government Office for the South West are considering the implications for the regional spatial strategy for the South West, but cannot reach a clear view until the written judgment is issued by the Court. It is not possible to set a new timetable, until the implications of the judgment have been clarified, and what action is required, if any.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on him to consult on revisions to a regional spatial strategy. [279926]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** PPS 11: Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) sets out the requirements for the Secretary of State to consult on revisions to a RSS, refer to Table 1: Summary of the RSS Revision Process page 24 .

Once the Secretary of State receives the Panel Report prepared by the independent Chair of the Enquiry in Public, the Secretary of State then drafts the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the RSS, which is then subject to a eight-week public consultation process, prior to the issue of the final RSS by the Secretary of State.

### Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effect on businesses of self-certification of fire risk assessments under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. [278837]

**Mr. Malik:** The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 has been in force since October 2006. Last year my Department commissioned an initial evaluation into the effectiveness of the Order in England, looking at its impact on the enforcers, 'responsible persons', and on the fire safety industry. A copy of the report ('Initial Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005'—Fire Research 3/2009) is available in the Library.

## Rented Housing: Disabled

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* promote and *(b)* enforce minimum standards of facilities for tenants with severe disabilities in housing provided by not-for-profit housing associations; [275744]

(2) if he will take steps to improve regulation of the standards for housing provided by not-for-profit housing associations for people with severe disabilities; [275747]

(3) if he will take steps to strengthen the regulation of charges levied on local authorities by not-for-profit housing associations who provide accommodation and support for tenants with severe disabilities. [275748]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Tenant Services Authority (TSA) is currently in the process of developing its standards framework. The aim is to improve the standard of service for all tenants, and the standards currently being developed will be a key method of achieving this. Where landlords do not meet these standards, the TSA will use the powers bestowed on them through the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 to ensure this is addressed, and the quality of service improved.

The Care Quality Commission is responsible for the regulation of accommodation for people who require nursing or special care. From 2010 a new registration system will ensure that health and adult social care providers must be registered with the CQC to show they meet a wide range of essential, common quality standards.

The CQC have a wide range of enforcement powers, such as fines and public warnings, and they have flexibility about how and when to use them.

Further information on the Commission including their enforcement powers can be found on their website at:

http://www.cqc.org.uk/aboutcqc/whatwedo/registrationandenforcement.cfm

Since there are no apparent circumstances where a not for profit housing association would levy charges upon a local authority, no regulation is currently being envisaged in this area.

## Social Rented Housing: South East

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many unsold market homes have been bought by the Homes and Community Agency for use as social housing in *(a)* the South East and *(b)* Milton Keynes since the establishment of the agency. [276245]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The following tables show the expected numbers of affordable homes to be provided in both the South East region and Milton Keynes with grant funding from the Homes and Communities Agency since 1 December 2008 when the agency was established.

*Allocations in the South East region for the purchase of developer stock from 1 December 2008 to 31 March 2009*

| | Number of units |
|---|---|
| Low cost home ownership | 454 |
| Social rent | 584 |
| Total | 1,038 |

*Allocations in Milton Keynes for the purchase of developer stock from 1 December 2008 to 31 March 2009*

| | Number of units |
|---|---|
| Low cost home ownership | 58 |
| Social rent | 6 |
| Total | 64 |

*Source:*
Homes and Communities Agency

## Surrey Police: Council Tax

**Mr. Wilshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings between Ministers and officials from his Department and *(a)* Surrey Police and *(b)* Surrey Police Authority took place between July 2008 and May 2009; on what date each such meeting took place; who attended each meeting; and what topics were discussed at each meeting. [279307]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** There was one meeting with Surrey police authority on 21 April 2009 to allow the authority to present its challenge to its designation for capping face to face with Ministers. Ministers at the meeting were the then Local Government Minister, the then Police Minister and their officials. Those attending on behalf of Surrey police authority were Peter Williams (chairman of the authority), Dr. Sue Martin (chief executive), Ian Perkin (treasurer) and Mark Rowley (chief constable).

**Mr. Wilshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on what date his Department first informed Surrey police that it intended to use a 2008-09 notional budget requirement and a 2008-09 notional Band D council tax rate in determining whether to cap Surrey Police Authority's precept; [279316]

(2) what information *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department provided to Surrey police in July 2008 on the notional council tax precept to be used when setting its 2009-10 budget. [279655]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Officials wrote to the authority on 26 June 2008 informing it that the Secretary of State had proposed a notional budget requirement of £189,622,000 for 2008-09. The authority subsequently exercised its right to challenge its proposed notional budget requirement.

Officials then wrote to the authority on 11 September 2008 informing it that, having carefully considered its challenge, the Secretary of State had confirmed the notional budget requirement of £189,622,000 for 2008-09.

Further correspondence from officials beginning on 24 October 2008 (in response to a query from Surrey police on 21 October) confirmed that, in the event that Ministers decided to cap in 2009-10 and included a council tax capping principle, such a principle would operate with reference to a notional level of council tax for 2008-09.

## Unitary Councils: Costs

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden

(Mrs. Spelman) of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 730W, on unitary councils, how latest estimates for the restructuring costs for the new unitary councils break down between spending areas; and if he will make a statement. [278987]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The transition costs of around £138 million were based on the councils' proposals for unitary structures in their areas, remodelled where appropriate by independent financial consultants to reflect risks in the proposals and the potential impact of those risks on the business cases. These costs were summarised in the Impact Assessments published before the proposals were debated and approved by the House.

The stocktake visits that my officials undertook earlier this year confirmed that transition costs and savings were broadly in line with those in the proposals, and transition costs (at around £135 million) were likely to be slightly below the original estimated figure. We will continue to monitor progress in delivering these costs and savings.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Abortion

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the rate of *(a)* conception and *(b)* pregnancy terminated by abortion was among those under the age of 18 years in (i) England, (ii) Essex and (iii) Castle Point in each of the last five years. [278013]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the rate of (a) conception and (b) pregnancy terminated by abortion was among those under the age of 18 years in (i) England, (ii) Essex and (iii) Castle Point in each of the last five years. (278013)

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

The table below provides the rate of (a) conceptions and (b) conceptions leading to a legal abortion, among girls aged under 18, for (i) England, (ii) Essex county and (iii) Castle Point local authority district for 2003 to 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available).

*Rate of (a) conceptions and (b) conceptions leading to a legal abortion, among girls aged under 18[1], for (i) England, (ii) Essex county and (iii) Castle Point local authority district for 2003 to 2007*

*Rate per 1,000[2]*

*(a) Conceptions*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 42.2 | 41.6 | 41.3 | 40.6 | 41.7 |
| Essex county | 31.7 | 30.5 | 30.6 | 32.5 | 32.9 |
| Castle Point LAD | 32.5 | 30.8 | 32.0 | 29.9 | 34.4 |

*Rate per 1,000[4]*

*(b) Conceptions leading to a legal abortion*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 19.4 | 19.1 | 19.3 | 19.8 | 21.1 |
| Essex county | 15.2 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 17.5 | 18.7 |
| Castle Point LAD | 17.7 | 20.0 | 19.8 | 17.5 | 19.7 |

[1] Under 18 years at estimated date of conception.
[2] Number of conceptions to women under 18 per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 17.
[3] Figures for 2007 are provisional.
[4] Number of conceptions to women under 18 leading to a legal abortion per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 17.

### Bank Services: Lincolnshire

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of households in *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency and *(b)* Great Grimsby constituency that have bank accounts. [279271]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

The Family Resources Survey data for 2006-07, published in June this year, show that the number of adults without access to a bank account fell from 2.8 million in 2002-03 to 2.1 million in 2006-07. The survey data do not provide figures by constituency. However they show that around 91 per cent. of households in the Yorkshire and Humberside region are 'banked'.

### Local Government Finance

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 391W, what data the Office of National Statistics' uses to make comparisons between spending levels of local authorities. [279795]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I have been asked to reply.

Information from local authorities are recorded on annual revenue outturn (RO) and budget (RA) forms.

### Suicide

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have *(a)* committed suicide and *(b)* attempted to commit suicide in each (i)

local authority area and (ii) constituency area in each quarter of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [279073]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people have (a) committed suicide and (b) attempted to commit suicide in each quarter of the last five years in each (i) local authority area and (ii) constituency area in England. (279073)

The tables provide the number of deaths in England where suicide was the underlying cause of death by (1) local authority in each year (table 1), and (2) local authority in each quarter for all years combined (table 2), (3) parliamentary constituency in each year (table 3), and (4) parliamentary constituency in each quarter for all years combined (table 4), for 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available). Copies of the tables have been placed in the House of Commons library.

Figures are not available for local authorities and parliamentary constituencies by individual year and quarter, as these data are judged to be too detailed to preserve anonymity in death statistics.

Figures are not available for the number of people who have attempted to commit suicide, since these data are not routinely collected. Results from the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey for 2000 and 2007 (the two most recent surveys) estimated that 0.5 per cent of persons aged between 16 and 74 in England attempted suicide in 2000, and 0.7 per cent in 2007.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the Government Equalities Office has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279521]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office has not had any contracts with Demos.

### Discrimination: Age

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representations she has received on the effects of age discrimination legislation on small and medium-sized enterprises. [277329]

**Maria Eagle:** This summer we will be publishing a consultation document on our developing proposals for exceptions to the prohibition on age discrimination against adults in services and public functions under the Equality Bill. The accompanying impact assessment, which will include a Small Firms impact test, draws on our ongoing discussions with business representatives about impacts, costs and benefits and will invite further evidence on potential impacts of the proposals.

### Domestic Violence

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many centres for victims of domestic violence have been opened in the last 12 months. [279362]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The provision of services to victims of domestic violence is a local issue; local decision makers are best placed to assess local needs. The majority of services are delivered through local providers who are supported and funded by local bodies, such as local councils and health organisations. As such, the Government do not collect information centrally on the number of services available for victims of domestic violence.

However, the Government do take the issue of domestic violence very seriously and since 1997 have taken significant steps to combat it. The Government have continued to provide funding to help lines to support a range of victims including the national 24 hour free phone help line (0808 2000 247); Men's Advice Line and Enquiries for male victims (0800 801 0327); Broken Rainbow for LGBT victims (08452 60 44 66); and RESPECT for perpetrators wishing to change their behaviour (0845 122 8609).

In addition, the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) programme has continued to expand and the Government are committed to increasing the number of SDVCs to 128 by 2011. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences are currently operational in over 200 areas, and will be rolled out nationally by 2011. Furthermore, in 2008-09 we provided over £6 million to support the roll-out of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs).

### Employment Tribunals Service

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many actions under employment law have been brought against the Government Equalities Office in each year since its establishment; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by the Government Equalities Office at an employment tribunal. [277425]

**Maria Eagle:** No such actions have been brought.

### Government Equalities Office: Equality Bill

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many individual representations the Government Equalities Office has received from members of the public concerning the provisions of the Equality Bill since its publication; and how many of these representations were *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* opposed to the provisions of the Bill. [279372]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** We have received 158 individual representations from members of the public concerning the provisions in the Equality Bill, since the Bill was published on 28 April 2009.

Many of the correspondents cover a wide range of issues and do not simply make representations of support or opposition to the Bill. Collating and analysing this information would be complex and incur a disproportionate cost.

### Government Equalities Office: Drinking Water

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on water coolers in each of the last two years. [279366]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Since its creation on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on the provision of water coolers.

### Government Equalities Office: Industrial Health and Safety

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on health and safety training for its staff in each of the last two years. [279367]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Government Equalities Office: Information and Communications Technology

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on the maintenance of its website in each of the last two years. [279363]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The GEO website was established in financial year 2008-09. The cost of maintaining it in that year was £4,846.29.

### Government Equalities Office: Manpower

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many people from ethnic minority backgrounds are employed by the Government Equalities Office. [279377]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office employs 23 staff (20 per cent. of its workforce) from ethnic minority backgrounds.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men are employed by the Government Equalities Office. [279378]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office employs 69 women and 36 men.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff the Government Equalities Office has employed in each month since October 2007. [279379]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office has employed the following number of staff since it was established in October 2007. A monthly breakdown is not available for the first year of GEO's operations. Since the implementation of GEO's own set of terms and conditions in October 2008 automated recording of staff numbers has been introduced and monthly data are available.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| October 2007 | 62 |
| March 2008 | 70 |
| October 2008 | 99 |
| November 2008 | 102 |
| December 2008 | 107 |
| January 2009 | 104 |
| February 2009 | 104 |
| March 2009 | 105 |
| April 2009 | 106 |
| May 2009 | 112 |
| June 2009 | 105 |

### Government Equalities Office: Surveys

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on staff surveys in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [279370]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office did not spend any money on staff surveys in 2007 or 2008.

### Victim Support Schemes: Rape

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality (1) on what date rape crisis centres will be able to begin applying for funding from the new £1.6 million Special Fund; against what criteria applications will be assessed; who will be responsible for deciding which centres receive funding; when she expects the first grants from the Fund to be *(a)* allocated and *(b)* distributed; and at what points in the financial year such funds will be distributed; [268042]

(2) when she plans to answer Question 268042, on rape crisis centres, tabled by the right hon. Member for Maidenhead on 26 March 2009. [279574]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Details of how to apply to the Special Fund have been made available on the Government Equalities Office website since Tuesday 28 April when the Special Fund opened. This includes information on eligibility criteria, governance and assessment procedures. A Board has been established to assess grant applications. The Board comprises of representatives from the two umbrella bodies, (Rape Crisis England and Wales and The Survivors' Trust), Government and an independent member. Grants are likely to be allocated and distributed in July and August 2009.

## HEALTH

### Allied Health Professions: Manpower

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* community and *(b)* primary care-based (i) physiotherapists and (ii) speech therapists there are in each primary care trust area. [279460]

**Ann Keen:** The number of physiotherapists and speech therapists in each primary care trust area is set out in a table which has been placed in the Library; however, these data cannot be further separated to show community and primary care based staff.

## Antidepressants

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for anti-depressants were dispensed in each of the last five years. [279661]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The following table shows the number of prescription items for anti-depressant drugs within section 4.3 of the British National Formulary, written in the UK and dispensed in the community, in England.

*Prescription items dispensed in the community, in England, 2004 to 2008*

| | Number (thousand) |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 28,995.5 |
| 2005 | 29,389.9 |
| 2006 | 31,038.0 |
| 2007 | 33,839.6 |
| 2008 | 35,960.5 |

*Source:*
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

## Cancer: Consultants

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants were employed in the treatment of cancer patients in the NHS in each year since 2001. [279471]

**Ann Keen:** Many medical specialities spend a considerable amount of time working with cancer patients, including staff from the anaesthetics, surgical and paediatric specialities, therefore it is not possible to give a total number of consultants employed in the treatment of cancer patients.

The NHS information centre has identified six main groups working in the treatment of cancer patients, a table of consultants working in these six groups since 2001 is shown as follows.

*Hospital and community health services (HCHS): Medical consultants within the six main cancer specialties*

| | | | | | | | Number (headcount) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *England as 30 September each year* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| All main cancer specialties | 3,721 | 3,913 | 4,169 | 4,381 | 4,593 | 4,711 | 4,810 | 5,034 |
| Clinical oncology | 333 | 315 | 347 | 392 | 438 | 482 | 506 | 533 |
| Clinical radiology | 1,645 | 1,702 | 1,810 | 1,876 | 2,014 | 2,061 | 2,086 | 2,224 |
| Haematology | 556 | 588 | 609 | 637 | 648 | 663 | 680 | 684 |
| Histopathology | 915 | 968 | 1,021 | 1,083 | 1,094 | 1,087 | 1,111 | 1,129 |
| Medical oncology | 147 | 185 | 202 | 201 | 215 | 233 | 225 | 235 |
| Palliative medicine | 125 | 155 | 180 | 192 | 184 | 185 | 202 | 229 |

*Notes:*
Data Quality.
Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The NHS information centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
*Source:*
The information centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census.

## Customer Experience Information in Health and Social Care Review

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the outcomes of his Department's Review of Customer Experience Information in Health and Social Care. [279214]

**Ann Keen:** The report relating to the Department's' review of customer experience information in health and social care was published on the Department's website on 29 April 2009. A copy of this report has been placed in the Library.

## Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279502]

**Phil Hope:** In the last 12 months, I attended a meeting with Demos on 4 February 2009.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279503]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has had no contracts with the think-tank Demos since it assisted with the partial funding of "Making It Personal" published in January 2008.

## Dentistry: Easington

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there are in Easington constituency; and how many patients received NHS services from those dentists in the last 24 month period for which information is available. [279851]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested.

The numbers of dentists with national health service activity during the year ending 31 March 2008 are available in table G1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT) but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

The published figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Information on the number of patients seen in the most recent 24 month period is available in table D3 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England, Quarter 3, 31 December 2008" report. Information is provided at quarterly intervals from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2008. Information is provided by PCT and SHA but is not available by constituency. It is based on the PCT boundaries which came into effect on 1 October 2006. This report, published on 21 May 2009, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q3

## Departmental Billing

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278826]

**Phil Hope:** The quantity and proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt to commercial suppliers are shown in the following tables. The Department's figures are shown in Table 1 and its executive agencies; NHS Purchasing and Supply Authority (NHS PASA) and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) are shown in Table 2.

*Table 1: Department of Health*

| Month | Quantity of invoices paid within 10 working days to commercial suppliers | Proportion (percentage) of invoices paid within 10 working days to commercial suppliers |
|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | |
| June | 15,942 | 98.44 |
| July | 14,781 | 96.85 |
| August | 12,601 | 98.13 |
| September | 14,439 | 97.40 |
| October | 15,403 | 98.11 |
| November | 13,384 | 98.14 |
| December | 14,202 | 95.69 |
| *2009* | | |
| January | 15,830 | 97.02 |
| February | 12,777 | 78.19 |
| March | 16,949 | 95.56 |
| April | 16,250 | 96.44 |
| May | 15,851 | 95.77 |

*Table 2: Executive agencies: NHS PASA and MHRA*

| Month | Quantity of invoices paid within 10 working days to commercial suppliers | | Proportion (percentage) of invoices paid within 10 working days to commercial suppliers | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | NHS PASA | MHRA | NHS PASA | MHRA |
| *2008* | | | | |
| June | n/a | 139 | n/a | 37.27 |
| July | n/a | 202 | n/a | 52.74 |
| August | n/a | 129 | n/a | 37.83 |
| September | n/a | 167 | n/a | 45.26 |
| October | n/a | 141 | n/a | 35.16 |
| November | n/a | 158 | n/a | 47.73 |
| December | 121 | 144 | 31 | 40.34 |
| *2009* | | | | |
| January | 155 | 171 | 43 | 44.30 |
| February | 110 | 231 | 44 | 67.35 |
| March | 79 | 342 | 42 | 91.44 |
| April | 66 | 145 | 21 | 48.99 |
| May | 66 | 260 | 20 | 64.04 |

## Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279398]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The special advisers have attended no training courses in the last 12 months.

## Diabetes: Orthopaedics

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase awareness of the risk of amputations for people diagnosed with diabetes. [279731]

**Ann Keen:** Reducing the number of amputations resulting from diabetes relies on good management of and services for people with diabetes. The Diabetes National Service Framework sets out the overall strategy for preventing long-term complications of the condition. This has also been supplemented by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance, which recommends that people with diabetes should be offered foot examinations by trained personnel as part of their annual review. It also recommends that local national health service organisations have systems in place to identify people who may be at risk of developing foot complications and to offer them preventative foot care.

However, it is for local NHS organisations to commission a comprehensive service for people with diabetes that includes podiatry services.

## Disability Aids

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the design of *(a)* wheelchairs and *(b)* other care aids and equipment. [279934]

**Phil Hope:** It is for local decision what wheelchairs or other care aids or equipment to purchase and supply. For example, it is the responsibility of each primary care trust (PCT) to provide services, such as the provision of wheelchairs. The decision about which type of wheelchair is to be allocated to an individual is one taken at local level, after detailed clinical consultations and patient evaluation, by the PCT concerned.

## Doctors: Working Hours

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he expects the review of the effect of the European Working Time Directive on junior doctor training to report findings by August 2009. [279212]

**Ann Keen:** This was discussed at the recent meeting of the Board of Medical Education England and the Chairman, Sir Christopher Edwards, is writing to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State with proposals for taking forward the review.

## Fluoride: Drinking Water

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the incidence of primary bone cancer in populations receiving fluoridated water. [279886]

**Ann Keen:** The Department commissioned research into the effects of fluoridation on health. "A Systematic Review of Public Water Fluoridation" published by the University of York in 2000 found no clear association between, water fluoridation and cancer, but called for further research to strengthen the evidence base.

A subsequent research study commissioned from the Medical Research Council, Water fluoridation and health (2002) stated that:

"although available evidence suggests no link between water fluoridation and either cancer in general or any specific cancer type (including osteosarcoma, primary bone cancer), an updated analysis of UK data on fluoridation and cancer rates is recommended."

Both documents have been placed in the Library. Accordingly, section 58 of the Water Act 2003 placed a duty on strategic health authorities (SHAs) to monitor the effects of fluoridation schemes on the health of persons living in the fluoridated area and publish reports containing an analysis of the effects on health at four-yearly intervals.

We have commissioned the West Midland Public Health Observatory to propose a set of standard indicators, which can be used by SHAs to discharge this duty. We understand that, in compiling its proposals, the Observatory is considering whether data on the incidence of bone cancer held in cancer registries could be included among the indicators.

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of adding fluoride to public drinking water in the North West. [279887]

**Ann Keen:** The capital costs will depend upon the extent of the area it is proposed to fluoridate. North West Strategic Health Authority is still considering the options in the light of a feasibility study it commissioned from the water company. Evidence from existing fluoridation schemes suggests that the recurring costs of fluoridation are about 80 pence per head of population per year. This compares to an average of £40 per person spent each year on national health service dental services.

## Fractures

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to increase levels of understanding of bone health. [279634]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Choices website provides advice on bone health, suitable for the general public and those newly diagnosed with osteoporosis, at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/osteoporosis/Pages/Introduction.aspx

More detailed information, suitable for health professionals, is available on the NHS Evidence website at:

www.evidence.nhs.uk/Search.aspx?t=osteoporosis

## Health Services

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that patients who have been seen initially within the 18-week target and who need follow-up treatment receive it within a similar timescale. [279888]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** All patients should be treated without unnecessary delay according to their clinical need. It is for doctors to determine a patient's clinical priority and patients should not experience undue delay at any stage of their treatment pathway. It is important, therefore, that services match their capacity with demand so that no patient waits unnecessarily to be seen whether for their first appointments or for follow up appointments.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to announce the conclusions of the review of care services; and what further consultation he proposes to have before so doing. [279935]

**Phil Hope:** The Government announced in the pre-Budget report 2007 that they would publish a Green Paper on reform of the Care and Support System, led by the Department. The Government subsequently confirmed in the Budget report in April this year that they intend to publish the Green Paper in June 2009. An exact date for publication has yet to be announced.

The Government ran a six-month public engagement on the future of Care and Support from May until November 2008. Findings from this have helped to inform the Green Paper, and a report of the findings will be published alongside the Green Paper.

There will be a formal consultation on the Green Paper after its publication, which will last for at least 16 weeks, concluding at the end of October 2009.

## Health Services: Diabetes

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to improve co-operation between hospitals and primary care trusts on specialist care for the management and prevention of diabetic foot disease. [279729]

**Ann Keen:** It is important that people with diabetes have access to a multidisciplinary team that includes podiatry services. The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)'s guidelines on the prevention and management of foot problems in people with diabetes

advise that foot examinations should be carried out by trained personnel as part of the annual review process.

We continue to work with NHS Diabetes to support the national health service in the provision and delivery of diabetes services.

However, it is for local NHS organisations to commission a comprehensive service for people with diabetes that includes podiatry services.

### Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much in healthcare costs has been reclaimed through the European Health Insurance card in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of that sum was attributable to expenditure on *(a)* pharmaceutical products, *(b)* emergency care and *(c)* surgery in each such year. [279219]

**Gillian Merron:** The following table shows the amounts claimed and estimates of claims yet to be submitted by the United Kingdom against other European economic area (EEA) member states for each of the last seven calendar claim years. Comparable information prior to 2002 is not available. The amounts are combined claims for temporary visitors (via European health insurance cards), posted workers (via E106 forms) and referrals for treatment in other EEA countries (via E112 forms). Due to the nature of the claims system between member states, it is not possible to disaggregate these data by either type of claim or type of treatment. The figures in the following table reflect the fact that EEA medical costs are typically submitted by EEA member states (including the UK) one to three, and sometimes more, years in arrears.

| | *UK claims against member states (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 14,200 |
| 2003-04 | 15,248 |
| 2004-05 | 18,700 |
| 2005-06 | 20,600 |
| 2006-07 | 20,400 |
| 2007-08 | 25,500 |

*Note:*
Totals are based on estimates of the costs of EEA health care claims made annually for the purposes of provisions made in the Department of Health accounts in accordance with Treasury resource accounting rules.
*Source:*
Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) exercise

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government have paid to other EU member states under the European Health Insurance Card scheme in each of the last 10 years. [279265]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 228-30W.

### Hearing Impaired: Sight Impaired

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance he plans to give local authorities in implementing his Department's deafblind guidance. [279854]

**Phil Hope:** Revised guidance for deafblind people is due to be published this summer following consultation with key stakeholders. This will replace the previous guidance.

The Department's Innovation, Excellence and Service Development Fund is providing funding to Deafblind UK to help promote greater independence for deafblind people. The project will deliver services focused around individual social and health care and support to enable deafblind people to live with greater independence and aims to meet needs in a manner that respects individual dignity and personal choice and offers the opportunity to break the isolation that is prevalent with this disability.

### Heart Diseases: Suffolk

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will meet the volunteers who run the Suffolk Air Ambulance to discuss their role in proposed arrangements for dealing with cardiac emergencies in East Suffolk; [278164]

(2) when he expects the East of England Strategic Health Committee to start its public consultation on proposed changes to the treatment of cardiac emergencies in East Suffolk. [278165]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I respectfully decline the request to meet the volunteers at the moment.

We would encourage the volunteers who ran Suffolk Air Ambulance to discuss directly with Suffolk Primary care Trust their role in proposed arrangements for dealing with cardiac emergencies in East Suffolk.

We have been advised that the East of England Strategic health Authority (SHA) did consult on the proposals for heart attack services, as part of 'Towards the best, Together'. This consultation took place from 12 May to 4 August 2008 and directly involved more than 7,000 people across the region. It included a structured public opinion survey of 2,500 people, 86 local meetings, a structure sample survey of 1,000 staff and 77 detailed submissions form stakeholder groups.

In addition, a half-day meeting on the acute care proposals took place with the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 July 2008.

East of England SHA has asked Professor Roger Boyle CBE, National Director for Heart Disease and Stroke, and a team of experts to review the plans for the introduction of a new Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention service in Suffolk.

If, after this process is complete, representatives of the volunteers still wish to meet me then I will see them.

### Home Care Services: Consultants

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on funding domiciliary visits by consultants in the last 10 years. [279199]

**Ann Keen:** No specific guidance has been issued to primary care trusts on the funding of domiciliary visits by consultants in the last ten years. Funding to cover the costs of domiciliary visits is included in primary care trust allocations; these then flow from primary care trusts to service providers.

Principles governing the receipt of additional fees by consultants, including domiciliary visits, form part of the 'Terms and Conditions of Service—Consultants (England) 2003'. A copy has been placed in the Library. Guidance on the payment of additional fees to consultants, including domiciliary visits, was issued to employers to support the implementation of the 2003 consultant contract. A copy has been placed in the Library. It is expected that domiciliary visits will normally be scheduled as part of a consultant's programmed activities and, therefore, not attract any additional payment.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many domiciliary visits were made by consultants in each *(a)* specialism and *(b)* primary care trust area in the last 10 years. [279200]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not held centrally.

## Home Care Services: Elderly

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there was in the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home during 2007. [279480]

**Phil Hope:** The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects information on the number of people aged 65 and over receiving community-based services from councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs).

The numbers of people aged 65 and over, per 1,000 of the population aged 65 and over, helped to live at home by CASSRs are shown in the following table.

*Numbers of older people per 1,000 of the population aged 65 and over being helped to live independently (receiving any community-based service) in England*

| As at 31 March | Number |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 80 |
| 2007-08 | 81 |

*Source:*
NHS Information Centre referrals, assessments and packages of care return, table P2a and Office for National Statistics mid year population estimates

## Hospitals: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average treatment waiting times are for *(a)* Chorley Hospital, *(b)* Lancashire Primary Care Trust and *(c)* England. [280288]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department collects referral to treatment (RTT) data at trust level and not for individual hospitals where these form part of a larger trust. Chorley hospital forms part of the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust for which data has been provided.

Average (median) RTT waiting times for March 2009 (latest published data) are as follows:

| | Median waiting times (weeks) |
|---|---|
| *Admitted* | |
| Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 7.6 |
| Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust | 6.0 |
| England | 7.7 |
| *Non-admitted* | |
| Lancashire Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 4.5 |
| Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust | 4.3 |
| England | 3.8 |

## Lorazepam: Diamorphine

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of stocks of *(a)* lorazepam and *(b)* diamorphine. [279970]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Stock of lorazepam and diamorphine is fully available in the supply chain.

## Lung Cancer: Health Services

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has issued recent recommendations to acute hospital trusts on the proportion of lung cancer patients to receive active treatment. [280050]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has not issued any recent recommendations to acute trusts on the proportion of lung cancer patients to receive active treatment.

In 2005, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issued guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer patients. This guideline offers best practice advice on the care of adults who are suspected of having, or are diagnosed with, lung cancer.

## Lung Cancer: Surgery

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to *(a)* increase the number of thoracic surgeons and *(b)* increase the rates of surgical resection for lung cancer patients. [279896]

**Ann Keen:** It is for local service providers to determine the work force required to deliver the health service needs of their population, and to ensure that care is delivered in a manner that meets national standards.

In 2005, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer patients. NICE recommends surgical resection for suitable lung cancer patients.

## Maternity Services

**Mr. Wareing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of midwives required to maintain the standard of healthcare for pregnant women in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [279919]

**Ann Keen:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced a package of measures in February 2008 to support strategic health authority plans to recruit an extra 1,000 midwives by 2009, rising to around 4,000 by 2012, dependent on the birth rate continuing to rise.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of staffing levels of neonatal nurses in *(a)* Lancashire Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England; [280397]

(2) what criteria will be used to measure the effectiveness of the Operating Framework for the NHS in England in 2008-09 in ensuring the provision of an adequate number of neonatal nurses. [280400]

**Ann Keen:** It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in partnership with local authorities, strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly.

### Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Consultants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [279409]

**Gillian Merron:** The information is shown in the following table

*Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency*

| | *Spend (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 731 |
| 2005-06 | 2,135 |
| 2006-07 | 1,125 |
| 2007-08 | 801 |
| 2008-09 | 1,178 |

### Mental Health Services

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 118W, on mental health services, whether the £13 million package of measures to support people with distress is new money. [279993]

**Phil Hope:** The £13 million funding for 2009-10 announced by the Government in March for the package of measures designed to support people who are experiencing depression or anxiety to get back to work is newly allocated money. This is additional to the existing funding for the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme that will rise to £173 million in the third year (2010-11).

The new £13 million funding will help to fund a faster roll-out of talking therapies; a new network of employment support workers linked to every talking therapy service who will provide job support for people with common mental health problems; training of health advisers on the dedicated NHS Direct phone line who are being trained to spot people who might be experiencing depression because of economic problems and to refer them to help; and better online advice and information about the availability of services near to people's homes through NHS Choices.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has evaluated on the link between economic downturns and demand for psychiatric services; and if he will make a statement. [280052]

**Phil Hope:** Experience from previous recessions is that the need for psychological support increases as more people face financial, job and housing worries than at other times.

The £13 million funding for 2009-10 announced by the Government in March for the package of measures designed to support people who are experiencing depression or anxiety to get back to work is newly allocated money. This is additional to the existing funding for the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme that will rise to £173 million in the third year (2010-11).

The new £13 million funding will help to fund a faster roll-out of talking therapies; a new network of employment support workers linked to every talking therapy service who will provide job support for people with common mental health problems; training of health advisers on the dedicated NHS Direct phone line who are being trained to spot people who might be experiencing depression because of economic problems and to refer them to help; and better online advice and information about the availability of services near to people's homes through NHS Choices.

### National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence *(a)* to issue its interim process guide for determining indicators for inclusion in the Quality and Outcomes Framework and *(b)* to call for evidence from interested parties for indicators for potential inclusion in the Quality and Outcomes Framework from 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [279204]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its interim process guide for determining indicators for inclusion in the Quality and Outcomes Framework on 5 June. NICE intends to make a facility available on its website for submitting proposals for new indicators or changes to existing indicators in the summer.

### NHS: Foreign Workers

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of non-UK nationals *(a)* working, *(b)* working as doctors and *(c)* training to become doctors in the NHS. [279220]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not collect these data centrally and is not therefore able to provide the information.

It is estimated that 7.5 per cent. of undergraduate medical students are non-EEA.

### Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the final report of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board. [279482]

**Phil Hope:** We expect that the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board's final report will be completed in summer 2009.

### Operational Efficiency Programme

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to promote the uptake of collaborative procurement strategies within the NHS and health sector, as recommended in HM Treasury's May 2009 review, Operational Efficiency Programme: collaborative procurement. [279713]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department published the Commercial Operating Model "Necessity—not nicety" on 7 May 2009, which will meet future challenges by building procurement skills, organised through a clear and coherent system. The key elements of the commercial operating model include promoting the uptake of collaborative procurement strategies within the national health service and the Department. These include:

creating regional support units, which will bring together existing organisations and offer services to and be owned by the NHS locally;

seize savings benefits from pooling the NHS's purchasing power through the NHS Supply Chain contract by making it work harder and smarter; and

creating a new departmental commercial centre to strengthen commercial and procurement support for the Department and to ensure alignment of the wider commercial landscape, including support for cross-government collaborative procurement strategies.

Copies of the Commercial Operating Model have already been placed in the Library.

### Patients: Safety

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate for reporting to the Reporting and Learning System is for each NHS trust. [279203]

**Ann Keen:** Tables provided by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) have been placed in the Library. They set out the reporting rates for national health service organisations, based on patient safety incidents that occurred between April and September 2008 and were submitted to the Reporting and Learning System by the end of November 2008.

The response rate is calculated by taking the number of incidents, dividing by a denominator and multiplying by 100.

The NHS organisations are grouped into three clusters, each with their own specific denominator for ease of statistical comparison. The clusters are:

acute;

primary care with in-patient provision and mental health; and

primary care with no in-patient provision.

A summary of the denominators used for each cluster is set out as follows:

for acute NHS organisations it is the number of admissions in a six month period (April-September 2008);

for primary care organisations with inpatient provision and mental health organisations, it is the number of bed days in a six month period (April-September 2008); and

for primary care organisations with no inpatient provision, it is the population figure for the six month period (April-September 2008).

There is no suitable denominator for ambulance organisations and therefore no reporting rate is calculated. The NPSA are currently looking into ways to make comparisons across this cluster more meaningful.

The denominator data are drawn from the following sources:

Department of Health Hospital Episode Statistics database;

Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate and; and

UK National Statistics.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nutrition-related adverse incidents have been recorded by the National Patient Safety Agency in each month since it was established. [279205]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of nutrition-related adverse incidents that have been recorded by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) in each month since it was established in 2001 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However the Agency's recent Quarterly Data Summary, published in May 2009, provides an overview of what has been learnt from an analysis of nutrition-related patient safety incidents reported as occurring during 2006 and 2007. A copy of the summary has been placed in the Library. The analysis was carried out by the King's College, London in collaboration with the NPSA.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient safety incidents occurred in each NHS trust between April and September 2008 and were submitted to the Reporting and Learning System by the end of November 2008. [279483]

**Ann Keen:** A table, supplied by the National Patient Safety Agency, which sets out the number of incidents that occurred in each organisation between April and September 2008 and which were submitted to the Reporting and Learning System by the end of November 2008 has been placed in the Library.

### Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects Professor Ian Gilmore's review into prescription charges to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published; [279746]

(2) what resources his Department has allocated to Professor Ian Gilmore's review into prescription charges; [279749]

(3) what progress has been made on Professor Ian Gilmore's review into prescription charges. [279750]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Government have asked Professor Ian Gilmore, President of the Royal College of Physicians, to undertake a review of prescription charges. The review has sought the views of the public, clinicians and patient representative bodies on how to implement the proposed exemption for people with long-term conditions, including how it could be phased in. To date, this has included a web based survey, written submissions of evidence, deliberative research with the public and with general practitioners (GPs) and oral evidence sessions held with key stakeholder groups.

The review was due to report to Departmental Ministers in the summer. However, following discussions between Ministers and Professor Gilmore, he will undertake further work in order to ensure that proposals can be implemented smoothly and efficiently. Professor Gilmore is now due to report to departmental Ministers in the autumn. The report will also be published in the autumn.

The Department has a small team of officials supporting Professor Gilmore on his review. This includes three policy officials and two analysts. None of these staff are working solely on the review. In addition, the Department incurred expenditure of over £150,000 on the review in the last financial year, which includes the costs of deliberative research, stakeholder workshops and meetings. Further expenditure of this nature is likely as Professor Gilmore completes the review.

### Social Services: Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the formula by which the social care reform grant is disbursed. [279218]

**Phil Hope:** The Social Care Reform grant is allocated to a local authority according to its proportional share of the total adults' personal social services (PSS) relative needs formulae, with a minimum allocation of £10,000 for each local authority.

Details of the allocation basis for all PSS grants are published in the 2008 Local Authority Social Services Letter, a copy of which has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Localauthoritysocialservicesletters/DH_091106

The formulae for the adults' personal social services relative needs formulae are contained in Chapter 4 of the Local Government Finance Report 2008-09. This is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/lgfr0809s/index.htm

### Sunbeds: Young People

**Frank Cook:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of prohibiting the use of sunbeds by persons under the age of 18 years; and if he will make a statement; [279244]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of prohibiting the commercial use of unsupervised, coin-operated sunbeds; and if he will make a statement; [279245]

(3) what recent steps he has undertaken to improve public awareness of the health risks posed by sunbeds. [279246]

**Gillian Merron:** The Government advise against the cosmetic use of sunbeds, including coin-operated sunbeds, particularly by minors. The Cancer Reform Strategy commits the Government to reviewing the options for possible regulation of the sunbed industry, and we are expecting in the near future the publication of the report on sunbeds of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation and the Environment (COMARE).

SunSmart is the national skin cancer and sun protection campaign run by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the UK Health Departments. The 2009 campaign focuses on teenagers and young people, and aims to raise public awareness of the dangers of sunbeds and sunburn. As well as engaging with the media to promote skin cancer prevention, the SunSmart website at:

http://info.cancerresearch.org/healthyliving/sunsmart

provides information, advice and downloadable resources on the risks to health of sunbeds and sunburn. The campaign has also created interventions to reach young people through social networking sites.

In addition the Department of Health in England has worked with the Health and Safety Executive who have recently issued revised guidance for sunbed operators and users.

### Thalidomide

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had on compensation for thalidomide victims; [279259]

(2) what assessment he made of the average life-time cost to thalidomiders resulting from their disability. [279260]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department has received written representations from the National Advisory Committee to the Thalidomide Trust and others on the issue of Government compensation for thalidomide victims. No recent discussions have taken place.

Thalidomide victims are compensated through a private settlement, which was agreed between the Thalidomide Trust, which was established to administer annual payments to victims, and Distillers, which is now part of Diageo plc, the company that marketed the drug in the United Kingdom. The adequacy of the compensation fund is therefore a matter for the Thalidomide Trust and Diageo plc.

No assessment has been made of the cost to thalidomide victims resulting from their disabilities.

### Tranquillisers

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what scientific advice his Department has received from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs on the effectiveness of medical treatment by prescribed tranquillisers in the last five years. [279383]

**Gillian Merron:** The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs do not advise on the effectiveness of medical treatment.

### Transplant Surgery: Overseas Visitors

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1110W, on surgery: overseas residence, how many people recorded as resident outside the UK, excluding the Republic of Ireland, and categorised in Group 2 received organs between April 1998 and March 2008. [279540]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows organ transplants from deceased donors into patients recorded as resident outside the United Kingdom excluding Republic of Ireland and categorised as Group 2; April 1998 to March 2008. All transplants listed took place in national health service hospitals.

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 22 |
| 1999-2000 | 38 |
| 2000-01 | 39 |

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 46 |
| 2002-03 | 53 |
| 2003-04 | 52 |
| 2004-05 | 27 |
| 2005-06 | 21 |
| 2006-07 | 7 |
| 2007-08 | 5 |
| Total | 330 |

### Warfarin

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the net ingredient cost per head of population in each primary care trust area of prescriptions of warfarin was in the last three years for which information is available. [279461]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Figures for individual primary care trusts in the period requested are taken from the Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool system and have been placed in the Library.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many potential sponsors are in discussion with his Department on the establishment of a new academy; and if he will make a statement. [279930]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department is currently in discussion with around 200 individual sponsors for academy projects due to open in September 2009 and beyond. We expect to open the 200th academy in the upcoming academic year. As part of the National Challenge programme we will open up to a further 100 in September 2010, well on the way to our target of 400.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies have been established in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279931]

**Mr. Coaker:** 50 academies have opened since June last year. 47 opened in September 2008 and a further three opened in January 2009.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Minister in his Department has lead responsibility for the academies programme; and if he will make a statement. [280006]

**Mr. Coaker:** I am the new Minister responsible for academies. I am delighted to be taking responsibility for Academies at this important point in the programme.

Academies have been successful in raising standards in areas where they had previously been low and we expect to open the 200th academy in the upcoming academic year. As part of the National Challenge programme we will open up to a further 100 in September 2010, well on the way to our target of 400.

### Bullying: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of cases of bullying in secondary schools in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport in each year since 2001. [279763]

**Mr. Coaker:** We are unable to provide figures for the number of bullying incidents in individual local authorities and schools as this information is not collected centrally. Our bullying guidance recommends currently that schools record incidents of bullying and report these data to their local authority. We have flagged up that schools can use the data to monitor their anti-bullying policies and respond to and manage individual cases more effectively, and that local authorities can use the data to identify trends and evaluate area-wide initiatives.

We intend to introduce a new statutory duty on schools to record incidents of bullying between pupils early next year, and will specifically consult on whether schools should be obliged to report these incidents to their local authority. We will consult on the scope of the legislation in the autumn and bring into force the new regulations in 2010.

### Children: Protection

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing the recommendations in Lord Laming's review of child protection services in England over the next five years. [278969]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]*: The Government are investing £130 million in social work reform over the full spending review period of which £57.8 million is additional new investment announced on 6 May 2009 as part of 'The protection of children in England: action plan—The Government's response to Lord Laming'. This represents a substantial commitment to support the recruitment, training and development of social workers and will significantly increase the capacity of the system to implement change immediately.

Expenditure on children's social care has also increased by over 90 per cent. in real terms between 1997-98 and 2008-09, equating to an average real terms increase of 6.1 per cent. per annum. It is the responsibility of all partners on Children's Trusts to assess the adequacy of their funding of children's services. As Lord Laming acknowledged in his report, 'The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report', most of his recommendations require all partners on Children's Trusts to ensure that they are applying existing guidance and good practice effectively and do not depend on additional resources.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279405]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** Special advisers receive training as appropriate to enable them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers".

However, special advisers in this Department have not attended any training courses in the last 12 months.

## GCSE

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 929W, on children: disadvantaged, how many and what proportion of *(a)* all pupils and *(b)* pupils eligible to receive free school meals in each local authority area did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in 2008. [278961]

**Mr. Coaker:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1330W.

## National Curriculum Tests

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in each local authority area achieved a Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics in Key Stage 2 tests in 2008. [278955]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested at local authority level has been placed in the House Libraries.

## Ofsted: Finance

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much and what proportion of Ofsted's budget was used to fund the inspection of schools in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [278406]

(2) what budget Ofsted has set for each of its divisions and directorates for 2009-10. [278407]

**Mr. Coaker:** These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the House Libraries.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 June 2009:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Table A shows Ofsted's expenditure on the inspection of schools for the 12 month period from April 2008 to March 2009, as well as its proportion of Ofsted's total gross expenditure.

*Table A: Ofsted's expenditure on schools inspection, April 2008-March 2009*

| | Expenditure (£ million) |
|---|---|
| Total expenditure on school inspections carried out under Section 5 of the Education Act 2005 | 37.5 |
| Total expenditure on school inspections carried out under Section 8 of the Education Act 2005 | 8.4 |
| Total expenditure on education surveys | 3.1 |
| Total expenditure on the inspection of maintained schools | 49.0 |
| Ofsted total gross expenditure | 332.0 |
| Proportion of Ofsted's expenditure spent on the inspection of maintained schools (percentage) | 31.1 |

The total gross expenditure is derived from Ofsted's draft resource accounts for 2008-09, presented to parliament on 9 June. We have used information from this analysis to complete the table.

Inspections carried out under Section 5 of the Education Act 2005 represent the routine programme of inspections of maintained schools. Inspections carried out under Section 8 of the Education Act 2005 represent additional monitoring visits for maintained schools judged to be in a category of concern. Ofsted also undertakes inspection activity in schools as part of its programme of surveys, and the gross expenditure relating to this work is included. The figures set out represent the full cost of inspection activity and include direct, indirect and overhead costs.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 9 June 2009:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Table A shows the gross revenue budget for each directorate or area of Ofsted's work for the financial year 2009-10.

*Table A: Gross revenue budget by Ofsted Directorate/area of work, 2009-10*

| Directorate/area of work | £ (million) |
|---|---|
| Children directorate | 69.4 |
| Education directorate | 69.7 |
| Learning and skills directorate | 13.6 |
| Corporate services directorate | 37.8 |
| Finance, procurement and property directorate | 8.2 |
| Non-recurrent transitional costs to achieve savings targets | 11.8 |
| Capital | 1.0 |
| DUP | 2.0 |
| Total | 213.5 |

Ofsted is currently undergoing an internal restructure and, from September 2009, a different directorate structure from that outlined will take effect.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

## Pupils: Diabetes

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department plans to take to increase support for children diagnosed with diabetes in school. [279830]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** While there is no legal requirement on schools or school staff to manage a pupil's medicine or support a child's medical need, all pupils should have the opportunities of a good education and we would encourage schools to do what they can to support a child with a medical need.

To ensure that children with long term conditions receive the help and support they need so that they can take a full role in school life, it is our intention that the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill will make schools a statutory relevant partner in local children's trusts, primary care trusts and others, and require them to work in partnership with other local agencies to improve children's well-being. They will be represented on the children's trust board and contribute to the preparation and monitoring of the local children and young people's plan. We will also ensure that the relevant

guidance makes specific reference that partners need to consider locally to support schools in managing children with medical conditions.

We announced in the Child Health Strategy that we will update the guidance 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings'. The revised guidance will include clear statements of expectations of those involved in supporting pupils with medical conditions, including schools and Primary Care Trusts. The Department will also be setting up a stakeholder group, which will include expert organisations such as Diabetes UK, to help review and revise the guidance.

### Pupils: Walking

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on encouraging children to walk to school in each of the last five years; and how much funding it has allocated for such purposes in 2009-10. [280246]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The following table shows the amount paid to schools from 2004-05 in small capital grants to support schools with approved school travel plans as part of the joint DCSF/Department for Transport (DFT) Travelling to School Initiative, which sets out a series of measures to support local authorities and schools to encourage more children to walk, cycle or take the bus to school. £20 million will be made available in 2009-10.

| | *Amount paid (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 14,251,730 |
| 2005-06 | 22,657,923 |
| 2006-07 | 21,495,745 |
| 2007-08 | 22,704,632 |
| 2008-09 | 18,977,031 |

### Schools: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the *(a)* requirement for and *(b)* cost of school building repairs in (i) Tameside and (ii) Stockport in the next three years. [279764]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department allocates capital funding to local authorities and schools. It then relies upon them to prioritise expenditure in accordance with local asset management plans. Accordingly, no assessment is carried out centrally of the requirement for and cost of school building repairs at local authority level.

Capital allocations to Tameside and Stockport for the current three year spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11 amount to £38.0 million and £52.9 million respectively. Resources available for the period 2010-11 onwards have not yet been confirmed. Current allocations compare with £3.2 million for Tameside and £1.6 million for Stockport in 1996-97.

In addition, Tameside has a Building Schools for the Future wave 3 projects, with an indicative allocation of £80.2 million of conventional capital funding, and

### Schools: Polling Stations

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were closed or partly closed for use as polling stations on 4 June 2009. [278954]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department does not collect or record this information centrally.

### Schools: Procurement

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to promote the uptake of collaborative procurement strategies within schools, as recommended in HM Treasury's May 2009 review, Operational Efficiency Programme: collaborative procurement. [279715]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Educational Procurement Centre (EPC) within the Department for Children Schools and Families is working with The Pro5 Group of Professional Buying Organisations (PBOs) to develop and commission collaborative arrangements for schools to access a wide range of goods and services.

OPEN—the Online Procurement for Educational Needs system is the Department's eProcurement tool for schools that has been developed with and for schools to aid them in procuring their goods and services in one convenient location should they wish to use it. We are working with public sector buying organisations such as Pro5 to utilise OPEN to meet their needs so that it can display collaborative catalogues and contracts.

EPC is working with departmental procurers, other government Departments and PBOs to analyse and assess opportunities for collaborative procurement in the schools sector.

The Department has also worked with the Office of Government Commerce to develop guidance in collaborative sourcing for schools, i.e. the new energy guide.

### Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the requirement for repairs to school buildings in Milton Keynes in the next five years; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such repairs. [280287]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department allocates capital funding to local authorities and schools. It then relies upon them to prioritise expenditure in accordance with local asset management plans. Accordingly, the Government do not carry out a central assessment of the requirement for and cost of school building repairs at local authority level.

Capital allocations to Milton Keynes for the current three year spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11 amount to £75.7 million. In addition, Basic Need Safety Valve (BNSV) funding was allocated of £28.0 million. This was later reduced to £13.4 million following Milton Keynes' assessment of the impact of the economic downturn on house building. Resources available for the period after 2010-11 have not yet been decided.

## Schools: Standards

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what results each local authority-supported school in *(a)* Newcastle, *(b)* North Tyneside constituency and *(c)* Northumberland achieved against each of the new criteria included in the National Challenge in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what percentage of children at each school has been eligible for free school meals in each such year; and where each school ranked on such criteria among all local authority-supported schools in England in each such year. [273187]

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what results each local authority-supported school in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby constituency achieved against the National Challenge criteria in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what percentage of children at each such school was eligible for free school meals in each such year; and where each such school ranked on these criteria among all local authority-supported schools in England in each such year. [273612]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The current National Challenge set to each maintained mainstream schools is for more than 30 per cent. of their Key Stage 4 cohort to achieve five or more GCSEs at A*-C or the equivalent including the subjects of English and mathematics.

At school level, this indicator is only available for 2006 and onwards while data on the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals are available for all of the requested years.

The available data for each of the requested schools have been placed in the House Libraries and those schools in the requested constituencies are compiled as follows.

| | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Institution name* | *% of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *National rank* | *% of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *National rank* | *% of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *National rank* | *% of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *National rank* | *% of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *National rank* |
| *North Tyneside* | | | | | | | | | | |
| George Stephenson Community High School | 14.1 | 1,226 | 11.7 | 1,438 | 11.8 | 1,381 | 11.0 | 1,408 | 7.2 | 1,966 |
| Churchill Community College | 28.3 | 499 | 25.0 | 604 | 20.8 | 748 | 21.7 | 665 | 18.2 | 882 |
| Longbenton Community College | 16.7 | 1,048 | 15.6 | 1,105 | 14.1 | 1,152 | 14.8 | 1,081 | 12.8 | 1,254 |
| Seaton Burn College, A Specialist Business and Enterprise School | 15.7 | 1,114 | 14.6 | 1,169 | 13.4 | 1,208 | 12.4 | 1,262 | 12.9 | 1,248 |
| *Crosby* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Formby High School | 8.9 | 1,806 | 8.3 | 1,884 | 8.5 | 1,789 | 7.1 | 1,942 | 7.0 | 2,020 |
| Chesterfield High School | 15.5 | 1,135 | 14.1 | 1,218 | 16.5 | 994 | 14.7 | 1,087 | 16.1 | 1,020 |
| Range High School | 1.7 | 2,979 | 1.5 | 3,007 | 1.6 | 2,960 | 1.5 | 2,943 | 1.8 | 2,962 |
| Sacred Heart Catholic College | 7.4 | 2,017 | 6.5 | 2,155 | 7.9 | 1,839 | 6.1 | 2,115 | 5.8 | 2,233 |
| St. Michael's Church of England High School | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 23.0 | 628 | 21.0 | 701 | 22.2 | 661 |

[1] Schools that were not open in given years.

*Note:*
Rankings among all maintained mainstream schools in England are given.

| Institution name | 2006 % of pupils achieving Level 2 threshold including English and mathematics | 2006 National rank | 2007 % of pupils achieving Level 2 threshold including English and mathematics | 2007 National rank | 2008 % of pupils achieving Level 2 threshold including English and mathematics | 2008 National rank |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *North Tyneside* | | | | | | |
| George Stephenson Community High School | 35 | 1,926 | 43 | 1,599 | 37 | 2,125 |
| Churchill Community College | 25 | 2,530 | 27 | 2,522 | 31 | 2,503 |
| Longbenton Community College | 51 | 1,011 | 50 | 1,175 | 49 | 1,385 |
| Seaton Burn College, A Specialist Business and Enterprise School | 39 | 1,687 | 38 | 1,891 | 35 | 2,241 |
| *Crosby* | | | | | | |
| Formby High School | 78 | 221 | 75 | 254 | 81 | 225 |
| Chesterfield High School | 51 | 1,011 | 45 | 1,483 | 45 | 1,616 |
| Range High School | 74 | 248 | 74 | 271 | 82 | 220 |
| Sacred Heart Catholic College | 52 | 964 | 57 | 799 | 80 | 233 |
| St. Michael's Church of England High School | 29 | 2,288 | 24 | 2,682 | 42 | 1,810 |

*Note:*
Rankings among all maintained mainstream schools in England are given.

## Secondary Education: Qualifications

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what qualifications his Department deems to have equivalent status to GCSEs; and if he will make a statement. [280242]

**Mr. Coaker:** Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator, is responsible for accrediting qualifications in England and for determining their level. All Level 1 accredited qualifications (equivalent to GCSE grades D-G) and Level 2 qualifications (equivalent to GCSE grades A*-C) are listed on the National Database of Accredited Qualifications at:

http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/index.aspx

## Teachers: Resignations

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers who have been subject to capability review procedures have left the profession in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [275036]

**Mr. Coaker:** The operation and outcome of capability procedures in schools is a matter for local determination. Accordingly, the information requested about the number of teachers who have been subject to capability reviews and have left the profession within the last five years is not held centrally.

## Truancy

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* England have appeared in court on charges related to the unauthorised absence of their child from school in the last (i) six, (ii) 12 and (iii) 24 months. [277733]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Ministry of Justice collects and publishes data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school; and for prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly. It is possible, because of the way courts record data, that some data are also collected under the more general heading of various offences under the Education Act 1996.

The information on the number of parents prosecuted by local authorities in England and Merseyside which includes Crosby for failing to secure their children's regular school attendance between 2006 and 2007 (latest available data) is detailed in the following table. Data are collected on the basis of police force region and not constituency.

*The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Education Act 1996 S.444, in the Merseyside police force area, and England, 2006 to 2007[1,2]*

| Statute | Offence description | Merseyside police force area 2006 | Merseyside police force area 2007 | England 2006 | England 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Education Act 1996 s.444 (1)(8) | Failure to secure regular attendance at school | 37 | 181 | 4,437 | 5,903 |
| Education Act 1996 s.444(8)(1a)(8a) added by Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 s.72 | Parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school | 82 | 79 | 1,559 | 1,840 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Legislation: Electronic Publishing

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent discussions she has had with representatives of mySociety on methods of electronic publication of bills by the House; and if she will make a statement. [279360]

**Barbara Keeley:** My predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Rhondda (Chris Bryant), had various discussions and correspondence with mySociety on this issue.

## TREASURY

### Banks: Closures

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many bank branches have been closed in the last six months by banks in which the Government have purchased a shareholding in the last two years. [279434]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Government's shareholdings in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Lloyds Banking Group (Lloyds) are managed by UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI), and for Northern Rock and Bradford and Bingley they are currently managed by the Treasury. All shareholdings in these banks are managed on a commercial basis. The closure of branches is an operational decision for the board of each bank.

It is a matter for each bank to disclose this information.

### Cheltenham and Gloucester

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions Lloyds TSB held with UK Financial Investments Ltd on its plans to close high street branches of Cheltenham and Gloucester; and what reports he received from his Department's representative on the Board of Lloyds TSB on the matter. [279470]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI) has been set up to manage the Government's investments in financial institutions as an active and engaged shareholder, operating on a commercial basis and at arms length from Government. This includes monitoring performance through maintaining an active and regular dialogue with investee companies' board to satisfy UKFI that the boards are operating effectively, and that companies' strategies protect and enhance shareholder value.

The framework document between HM Treasury and UKFI sets a requirement that UKFI will not intervene in the day-to-day management decisions of investee companies, with the companies retaining their own independent boards, which will manage the banks and determine their strategy. Closing branches is an operational decision for the Board of Lloyds Banking Group (Lloyds).

As part of the recapitalisation scheme announced on 8 October last year, the Lloyds has announced two new independent non-executive directors on 2 February. The purpose behind their appointment is to strengthen the board of the bank and to provide independent oversight in respect of governance and other matters in the interests of all the shareholders of the bank. They are not representatives of the Government.

### Child Trust Fund: Castle Point

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child trust fund vouchers have been issued to residents in Castle Point constituency; how many accounts have been opened by residents of the constituency; and what his estimate is of the value of those accounts. [280220]

**Kitty Ussher:** The most recent constituency level statistics on child trust fund accounts were published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

HM Revenue and Customs does not have data on the value of child trust funds at constituency level.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279485]

**Kitty Ussher:** No.

### Departmental Training

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* ministerial away days have been organised by his Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost of such events was in each year. [266210]

**Kitty Ussher:** For details of the cost of away days prior to 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 220W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

Disaggregated information on the number of away days held by *(a)* staff and *(b)* Ministers is not held centrally and could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

The following table shows total recorded spending on away days in 2007-08, the latest year for which audited figures are available.

*2007-08 Treasury away days*

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| Core treasury | 211 |
| Group shared services[1] | 68 |
| Total | 279 |

[1] HM Treasury, OGC and DMO established a Group Shared Services (GSS) function in 2007-08, including former OGC teams working from locations outside London

### Departmental Work Experience

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274477]

**Kitty Ussher:** The number of individuals employed as placement students in each of the last five years is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 35 |
| 2005-06 | 31 |
| 2006-07 | 38 |
| 2007-08 | 28 |
| 2008-09 | 34 |

It is not possible to distinguish between the different categories of work placement.

### EU Budget

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the maximum liability that could arise for the UK as a result of the deployment of the balance of payments facility which allows the EU to borrow money in its own legal personality. [278842]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 9 June 2009]:* The EC Budget and all member states take on a contingent liability as a result of lending from the balance of payments facility. The loan guarantee risk is borne by the Budget, but no specific budgetary allocation is made for this. Should costs arise from providing this facility, it would be for the Commission to propose, and Council and the European Parliament to agree, how that liability would be met from within the existing financial framework.

### Excise Duties: Fuel Oil

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what revenue from road fuel duty has been raised from sales in Na h-Eileanan an Iar in each year since 2005-06; [279857]

(2) if he will make an estimate of the revenue from road fuel duty raised from sales in each region in 2008-09. [279858]

**Kitty Ussher:** Fuel duty revenues are not disaggregated by region, as fuel duty is paid by fuel producers and importers, not by end consumers. Historical fuel duty revenues for the whole UK are available on HMRC's UK Trade Info website at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

### Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was received by the Exchequer in *(a)* vehicle excise duty and *(b)* fuel duty receipts in each of the last five years. [280375]

**Kitty Ussher:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1675W, by my predecessor my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey (Angela Eagle) to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker).

The Treasury publishes details of tax receipts as a matter of routine in the pre-Budget and Budget reports. The most recent can be found in table C6 of the Chancellor's 2009 Budget report at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf

### Financial Ombudsman Service

**Ms Gisela Stuart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints were lodged with the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) in 2008-09; and how many of those making such complaints notified the FOS that they were not satisfied with the way in which their complaint had been handled. [279242]

**Ian Pearson:** The Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) is operationally independent of Government.

Information about the number of cases lodged with the FOS and the number of complaints about FOS' service is included in the FOS' Annual Review which is available on the FOS' website.

http://www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk/publications/ar09/ar09.pdf

**Ms Gisela Stuart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints were *(a)* upheld and *(b)* rejected by the Service Review Team of the Financial Ombudsman Service in 1998-99. [279243]

**Ian Pearson:** The Financial Ombudsman Service was not established until 1 December 2001.

### Individual Savings Accounts

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date persons under 50 years old will be eligible for the increase in the level of the annual maximum permissible investment for individual savings accounts. [280047]

**Ian Pearson:** At Budget 2009 the Government announced that from 6 October 2009 the ISA limits will rise for people aged 50 and over to £10,200, of which up to £5,100 can be saved in cash. From 6 April 2010 the ISA limits will rise to these new levels for all savers.

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the increase in the level of the annual maximum permissible investment in individual savings accounts was initially available only to persons aged over 50 years old. [280048]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government recognise that low interest rates, which are benefiting many people with mortgages, have meant that savers have seen their return from savings fall. In particular, this has affected people who are retired, or are approaching retirement, who are often more reliant on their savings income to meet day-to-day needs or fund discretionary purchases. As announced in Budget 2009, the Government are therefore taking targeted action now to help people aged 50 and

over with their savings. The ISA limits are being raised for those aged 50 and over from 2009-10, enabling them to move more of their savings into a tax-advantaged ISA, rewarding those who have saved by improving their returns. The Government also recognise that people need to be supported to save as the economy emerges from the downturn, and therefore the ISA limits will increase to the same level for all savers from April 2010.

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to increase annually the maximum permissible annual investment in individual savings accounts. [280049]

**Ian Pearson:** All savings incentives are kept under review. The current ISA limits mean that the majority of people can hold all of their savings in a tax-advantaged way.

As announced at Budget 2009 the limit will increase to £10,200 for those aged 50 and over on 6 October 2009, and for all savers from 6 April 2010.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir George Young:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Economic Secretary to the Treasury plans to respond to the letters from the right hon. Member for North West Hampshire of 17 December 2008 and 30 January, 26 February, 9 April and 28 May 2009 on the Royal Air Force Association and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander. [279034]

**Kitty Ussher:** A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 23 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Christina Angelina. [280440]

**Ian Pearson:** Receipt of the correspondence could not be traced. A request has been made to my right hon. Friend's office for a copy.

### Private Finance Initiative

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the costs and benefits of schemes under the Private Finance Initiative. [279984]

**Ian Pearson:** HM Treasury's Green Book

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_greenbook_guidance.htm

states that all new policies, programmes and projects should be subject to comprehensive assessment, including an appraisal of value for money.

Private finance initiative projects are required further to test value for money using tailored qualitative and quantitative appraisals which must form part of the project's business case

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_vfm_index.htm.

### Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any debt collection work contracted out by HM Revenue and Customs is undertaken by unregistered bailiffs. [279241]

**Mr. Timms:** I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1181W.

HM Revenue and Customs is currently carrying out a small scale six-month trial to test the use of private debt collection agencies (DCAs). The trial does not involve face to face contact or visits to home or business premises. The DCAs being used by HMRC as part of this trial are not bailiffs.

### Taxation

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis is for his forecast that the introduction of a process of personal tax accountability for senior accounting officers of large companies will result in an Exchequer yield of £40 million in 2010-11 and £50 million in 2011-12. [279256]

**Mr. Timms:** The forecast represents a cautious view of improved compliance. The evidential basis for the forecast came from a review of compliance issues within the group likely to be impacted and a cautious assessment of the behavioural impact of reinforcing senior accounting officer accountability.

### Taxation: Gaming Machines

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the introduction of a gross profit tax to replace amusement machine licence duty system; and if he will make a statement. [279743]

**Kitty Ussher:** Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

### Taxation: Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate has been made of the percentage of stamp duty receipts which will be derived from *(a)* residential properties, *(b)* commercial properties and *(c)* shares in each of the next three years; [271562]

(2) what percentage of stamp duty receipts were derived from *(a)* residential properties, *(b)* commercial properties and *(c)* shares in (i) each of the last 12 quarters and (ii) each year since 1997. [271663]

**Kitty Ussher:** The available breakdowns are given in the following table:

*Annual estimates from 1997-98 and quarterly estimates from 2006 (Q2)*

| | *Stamp taxes on residential properties* | *Stamp taxes on commercial properties* | *Stamp duty on shares* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Percentage* |
| 1997-98 | 24 | 19 | 57 |
| 1998-99 | 23 | 23 | 54 |
| 1999-2000 | 26 | 20 | 54 |
| 2000-01 | 26 | 19 | 55 |
| 2001-02 | 39 | 21 | 41 |
| 2002-03 | 46 | 20 | 34 |
| 2003-04 | 49 | 17 | 34 |
| 2004-05 | 52 | 18 | 30 |
| 2005-06 | 42 | 26 | 32 |
| 2006-07 | 49 | 23 | 28 |
| 2007-08 | 47 | 23 | 30 |

Quarterly receipts information is only published for stamp duties as a whole and is given for the requested quarters at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-3.pdf

Forecasts are also only published for stamp duties as a whole and forecasts for the next three years are available in table 2.9 of the publication Budget 2009: the economy and public finances—supplementary material, found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_econfinances_968.pdf

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projections have been made for *(a)* stamp duty land tax and *(b)* housing sector corporation tax receipts in each of the next two years. [275661]

**Ian Pearson:** The forecast of stamp duties for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is given in table 2.9 of the Budget 2009 supplementary report on the economy and public finances, available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_econfinances_968.pdf

It is not possible to estimate corporation tax receipts for the housing sector and it is therefore not possible to make any corporation tax projections of receipts from the housing sector.

### Taxation: Repayments

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the timeliness of HM Revenue and Customs' repayments of over-paid tax to taxpayers. [280249]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 982-83W, to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies).

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to answer Question 273420, on IR35 investigations, tabled on 30 April 2009. [280140]

**Kitty Ussher:** I have replied to my hon. Friend.

## JUSTICE

### Prisoners Maintaining Innocence

12. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in prison who maintain their innocence. [279676]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is not held collected centrally. A person who believes they have been the victim of a miscarriage of justice can appeal against their conviction. If the appeal is unsuccessful the criminal cases review commission can be asked to review the case. The commission has the power to refer a conviction to the appeal court.

### Offenders Unlawfully At Large

13. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences have been committed by offenders unlawfully at large since 1997. [279677]

**Maria Eagle:** There is no central record of the number of offences committed by offenders who are, for whatever reason, unlawfully at large. All such offenders are placed on the Police National Computer. Should they come to the adverse notice of the police, they are liable to be arrested and returned to custody.

The results of an audit of the number of offenders whose licences were revoked up to 30 June 2008 and who are not recorded as having been returned to custody will be published, for the first time, shortly.

### Legal Aid: Human Rights Cases

14. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to reduce the amount of legal aid provided to prisoners claiming breaches of their human rights. [279678]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government are currently considering the funding criteria to ensure that resources are being appropriately targeted on priority cases. However, it is important that the public have access to legal aid, where appropriate, to help them to enforce their legal rights.

### Prison Locations

15. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to decide on the location of each of the remaining three planned prisons. [279679]

**Maria Eagle:** We are planning to locate the remaining 1,500 place prisons in those regions there is the greatest need, and intend to restart our site search shortly.

### Hillsborough Disaster

16. **Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions his Department has had with the Home Department on the release of files and documents held by his Department relating to the Hillsborough disaster. [279680]

**Mr. Wills:** My right hon. Friend, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has discussed this important issue with my hon. Friends, the Home Secretary and the Culture Secretary, with a view to ensuring that relevant information is appropriately released.

This is a sensitive matter. We need to handle it carefully and with consideration, particularly for the families closely connected to the tragic events at Hillsborough.

### Freedom Act of Information Act 2000

17. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made in his review of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [279682]

**Mr. Wills:** In the Prime Minister's statement on Constitutional Renewal on 10 June, he emphasised our plans to look at broadening the application of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and reducing the time taken to release official documents.

We are considering carefully the responses to the public consultation on extending the Act through a section 5 order. This could include within the scope of the Act bodies performing functions of a public nature and contractors providing services that are functions of public authorities. We will publish our response to the section 5 consultation shortly.

In his statement, the Prime Minister also announced the reduction in the 30-year rule to 20 years. Our detailed response to the 30-year rule review will be published by the summer.

### Land Registration Fees

18. **Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what impact assessment he undertook on the increase in land registration fees which will be effective from 6 July 2009. [279683]

**Mr. Wills:** The Land Registration Fee Order 2009 was made following consultation with the Land Registration Rule Committee, which includes representatives from the legal professions, mortgage lenders, conveyancers, surveyors and consumer affairs. However, in keeping with previous practice in relation to the nine fee orders since 1993, of which eight reduced the level of fees, no formal impact assessment was undertaken and the periodic adjustment of fee levels is expected by businesses in this sector.

### Young Offenders: Reoffending Rates

19. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to reduce reoffending rates of young offenders in the last 12 months. [279684]

**Maria Eagle:** The latest statistics show a 23.6 per cent. reduction in the frequency rate of juvenile reoffending between 2000 and 2007. The Government's approach to reducing reoffending is detailed in the Youth Crime Action Plan, published last summer. This sets out the triple-track approach of enforcement, non-negotiable support and prevention.

### Dedicated Drug Courts

20. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the establishment of dedicated drug courts; and if he will make a statement. [279686]

**Bridget Prentice:** Following the positive indications from the evaluation of the first two pilot sites, an additional four dedicated drug court pilots commenced sitting early this year in Barnsley, Bristol, Cardiff and Salford magistrates courts. We will evaluate how the model operates at these six sites before making any decision on implementation.

### Constitutional Renewal Bill

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's planned timetable is for the Constitutional Renewal Bill. [279674]

**Mr. Wills:** We anticipate that a Bill based on the Government's Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill will be introduced before the summer recess for carry-over into the next parliamentary session.

In addition the Government intend to bring forward a Bill to create an Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority before the House rises for the summer.

### Adoption: Children

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Official Solicitor has been used by local authorities to progress the removal and adoption of a child from its birth family; and if he will make a statement. [279274]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Official Solicitor is not used by local authorities in the way suggested. The Official Solicitor is an independent statutory office holder whose duties, when acting as a litigation friend, are to his client and not to any other party, be it local authority or the child who is the subject of proceedings.

The function and purpose of his office is to represent a person who lacks capacity to conduct proceedings, in civil and family cases, and proceedings in the Court of Protection, across England and Wales, where, either there is no other suitable person willing and able to act, or for some other reason, failure to do so would result in an injustice. The Official Solicitor usually becomes involved in existing proceedings because he is invited to do so by the court.

### Ashwell Prison

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the report of the investigation into the riot at HM Prison Ashwell in April 2009. [279810]

**Maria Eagle:** As my right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson), the former Minister for Prisons, said in his written ministerial statement to the House on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, we will make the findings of the investigation and our conclusions on it available to the House in due course.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279497]

**Claire Ward:** The Ministry of Justice has no contracts with the think-tank Demos.

### Female: Offenders

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assistance his Department provides to *(a)* young, *(b)* elderly and *(c)* female offenders in Coventry. [280194]

**Maria Eagle:** Offenders subject to probation supervision are assessed at the commencement of their order and throughout their sentence. They may have particular offence-related problems connected with their age or gender, and will sometimes receive specialist provision to take account of these where this will reduce their risk of re-offending and the risk of harm they pose to the public.

West Midlands Probation Area delivers particular services for female offenders, including an Approved Premise, an accredited programme for women only, and, for women who are victims of domestic abuse, women safety workers and access to domestic abuse officers. Locally, the Coventry team has close partnerships with a number of other agencies who work with females, including offenders.

Coventry's Youth Offending Team provides services specifically to young offenders aged under 18, and as a multi-agency team comprising staff from probation, social services, health, education and police, it is able to provide services to address the factors linked to young offenders' re-offending.

### HM Courts Service

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each HM Courts Service office in each of the last five years. [279290]

**Bridget Prentice:** A breakdown of the number of SCS and non-SCS staff (full-time equivalent) in each HM Court Service office in the last two years (as at 31 March 2008 and 2009) will be placed in the Library of the House. A new pay deal was introduced in August 2007 that unified a set of terms and conditions across the Ministry.

With the creation of HM Courts Service in 2005 MOJ inherited all unaligned legacy terms and conditions for magistrates, crown and county courts including the pay scales which were not renegotiated until the 2007 pay deal.

To break these down into the requested categories at court level would incur disproportionate cost.

### Land Registry

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the Land Registration Rules Committee which has taken place in the last 12 months. [279904]

**Mr. Wills:** There has not been a meeting of the Land Registration Rule Committee during the past 12 months. The only matter requiring the consideration of the Rule Committee during this period was dealt with through correspondence.

### Land Titles

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what protection against development is conferred by land titles. [280399]

**Mr. Wills:** Registration of title to land under the Land Registration Act 2002 does not, of itself, confer protection against development. It does, however, provide protection in other ways. For example, it gives greater security against the possibility of ownership being lost by adverse possession, or squatting as it is more commonly known.

### Members

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the merits of a system for voters to recall hon. Members. [279666]

**Mr. Wills:** In his statement to the House on 10 June, the Prime Minister confirmed that there will be consultation with all parties regarding new proposals for dealing effectively with inappropriate behaviour, including potentially the options of effective exclusion and recall for gross financial misconduct identified by the new Parliamentary Standards Authority and the House itself.

### Offensive Weapons: Dyfed Powys Police

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of possession of a knife in *(a)* Dyfed Powys police force area and *(b)* Wales in each of the last 10 years. [279453]

**Claire Ward:** Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts for having an article with a blade or point in a public place and on school premises in Dyfed Powys police force area and Wales from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available in November 2009.

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of knife possession[1] in Wales, broken down by police force area, 1998 to 2007[2,3]*

| *Police force area* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dyfed-Powys | 29 | 23 | 27 | 31 | 35 | 36 | 39 | 45 | 29 | 35 |
| Gwent | 20 | 18 | 21 | 20 | 33 | 23 | 48 | 36 | 56 | 66 |
| North Wales | 60 | 55 | 42 | 51 | 74 | 61 | 67 | 77 | 113 | 89 |

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of knife possession[1] in Wales, broken down by police force area, 1998 to 2007[2,3]*

| Police force area | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Wales | 98 | 101 | 83 | 94 | 114 | 111 | 124 | 120 | 153 | 140 |
| Wales | 194 | 210 | 173 | 196 | 256 | 231 | 278 | 278 | 351 | 330 |

[1] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Having an article with blade or point in public place. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3).
Having an article with blade or point on school premises. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)).
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform

## Prison Accommodation

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many adult male sentenced prisoners are held in category *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C and *(d)* D prisons in England and Wales; [278701]

(2) what the average prison population as a proportion of the in-use certified normal accommodation in category *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C and *(d)* D prisons in England and Wales was on the most recent date for which figures are available. [278702]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table shows the numbers of adult males serving sentences in prison establishments as at 30 April 2009 by category of prison:

*Adult male prisoners serving sentences*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| High security prisons holding sentenced and remand prisoners up to Category A | 4,551 |
| Local and training prisons holding sentenced and remand prisoners up to Category B | 25,067 |
| Training prisons holding sentenced prisoners up to Category C | 22,522 |
| Open prisons taking Category D prisoners | 3,841 |
| Total | 55,981 |

The Security categories A, B, C, and D relate to categories of adult male prisoner. Female prisoners and young offenders are not categorised in this way.

The following table shows the numbers of prisoners in the categories of prison set out above, compared with the numbers in the certified normal accommodation:

| | Total prison population[1] | Total certified normal accommodation | Ratio (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| High security prisons holding sentenced and remand prisoners up to Category A | 5,845 | 5,392 | 108 |
| Local and training prisons holding sentenced and remand prisoners up to Category B | 35,312 | 27,780 | 127 |
| Training prisons holding sentenced prisoners up to Category C | 23,696 | 22,461 | 105 |
| Open prisons taking Category D prisoners | 4,220 | 4,312 | 98 |

Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA), or uncrowded capacity, is the Prison Service's own measure of accommodation.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Prison Sentences

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection for each type of offence have had their sentences extended; how many sentences were extended in the case of each such prisoner; what the length of the sentence was in each case; and by what period each sentence was extended; [272549]

(2) how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection had been released *(a)* following the completion of a pre-release rehabilitation course and *(b)* without having had access to a pre-release rehabilitation course on the latest date for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the number of prisoners who are waiting for access to such a course; [272550]

(3) how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection had been recalled following release on the latest date for which figures are available; [272551]

(4) how many prisoners of each *(a)* age group, *(b)* sex and *(c)* ethnicity are serving indeterminate sentences for public protection; [272569]

(5) how many indeterminate sentences for public protection have been handed down for each type of offence in each month since their introduction; [272575]

(6) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women sentenced to indeterminate sentences for public protection have been released in each month since the introduction of such sentences; [272576]

(7) how many indeterminate sentences for public protection have had a minimum term of *(a)* 12 months or less, *(b)* two years or less, *(c)* five years or less, *(d)* 10 years or less and *(e)* more than 10 years in each month since their introduction; [272673]

(8) how many prisoners on an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) have served longer than their tariff in each month since the introduction of IPPs; and what the average minimum length of a completed IPP has been. [272691]

**Mr. Straw:** Indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) are by definition indeterminate and therefore cannot be extended. The trial judge specifies the minimum period to be served for the purpose of

punishment. Whether the prisoner is released at this point or any subsequent point is then a matter for the Parole Board, who will assess whether he can safely be managed in the community. IPP prisoners will be released only when the Parole Board considers that to be safe.

Information is available centrally on the numbers of IPPs who have had access to courses promoting their rehabilitation. Information is also held centrally on the numbers of prisoners who have completed courses promoting their rehabilitation. Similarly, there is centrally held data on the numbers of IPPs who have been released from custody. However, there is no centrally held data set which links all three elements to show the numbers of IPPs who have been released from custody with or without access to a rehabilitation course. There are no centrally available reliable figures on the number of IPPs who are waiting to access such a course. NOMS is currently undertaking a mapping exercise in respect of the balance of resources available for interventions across custody and the community. NOMS is also committed to reviewing IPPs' interventions needs, on the basis of their sentence plan recommendations.

14 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection have been recalled following release, up to 30 April 2009.

The NOMS IPP database is updated every other month, based on data provided by establishments. As with any large scale recording system, the database is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The NOMS IPP database showed that, of the 5,246 offenders serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection on 24 April 2009:

409 were under 21 years of age

2,975 were between 21 and 35 years of age

1,493 were between 36 and 50 years of age

304 were between 51 and 65 years of age

65 were aged 66 and above

145 were female.

These figures include those subject to imprisonment for public protection (IPP), young prisoners subject to detention for public protection (DPP), and the 104 offenders of this type who are located in a secure psychiatric hospital.

Information on the ethnicity of these prisoners is not available. However, the latest figures to provide a breakdown by ethnicity of those prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection were given in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library. The percentage figures, as at 30 June 2007, were:

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| White | 78 |
| Mixed | 3 |
| Asian or Asian British | 3 |
| Black or Black British | 14 |
| Chinese or Other | 1 |

Up to 30 April 2009, 60 offenders serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection had been released from custody. The breakdown of the number of offenders released each calendar month, by gender, is given in the table.

| | | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | December | 1 | — | 1 |
| 2007 | March | 1 | — | 1 |
| | April | — | 1 | 1 |
| | June | 1 | — | 1 |
| | July | 3 | — | 3 |
| | August | 2 | — | 2 |
| | September | — | 2 | 2 |
| | October | 2 | — | 2 |
| 2008 | January | 2 | — | 2 |
| | February | 1 | — | 1 |
| | March | 4 | — | 4 |
| | April | 1 | — | 1 |
| | May | 2 | — | 2 |
| | June | 4 | — | 4 |
| | July | 1 | — | 1 |
| | August | 3 | — | 3 |
| | September | 3 | — | 3 |
| | October | 3 | — | 3 |
| | November | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| | December | 4 | — | 4 |
| 2009 | January | 3 | — | 3 |
| | February | 4 | — | 4 |
| | March | 1 | — | 1 |
| | April | 2 | — | 2 |
| Total | | 56 | 4 | 60 |

The following table lists the minimum terms for indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection given in each month since the introduction of that sentence where figures are available. These figures are taken from the Public Protection Unit Database within the National Offender Management Service. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

| Month of sentence | Tariff not specified | Less than or equal to 1 year | Greater than 1 less than or equal to 2 years | Greater than 2 less than or equal to 5 years | Greater than 5 less than or equal to 10 years | Greater than 10 years | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2005 | — | — | 3 | 1 | — | — | 4 |
| June 2005 | — | 1 | 6 | 6 | — | — | 13 |
| July 2005 | — | 2 | 5 | 20 | 1 | — | 28 |
| August 2005 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 23 | 4 | — | 46 |
| September 2005 | 2 | 0 | 34 | 36 | 2 | — | 83 |

| Month of sentence | Tariff not specified | Less than or equal to 1 year | Greater than 1 less than or equal to 2 years | Greater than 2 less than or equal to 5 years | Greater than 5 less than or equal to 10 years | Greater than 10 years | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| October 2005 | 3 | 8 | 38 | 46 | 3 | — | 97 |
| November 2005 | 1 | 11 | 41 | 41 | 3 | — | 97 |
| December 2005 | — | 5 | 23 | 45 | 4 | — | 77 |
| January 2006 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 50 | 6 | 1 | 87 |
| February 2006 | — | 6 | 29 | 70 | 7 | 1 | 113 |
| March 2006 | 1 | 7 | 52 | 82 | 8 | — | 150 |
| April 2006 | — | 7 | 30 | 55 | 10 | — | 102 |
| May 2006 | 1 | 4 | 40 | 63 | 6 | 1 | 115 |
| June 2006 | — | 14 | 45 | 82 | 18 | — | 159 |
| July 2006 | — | 8 | 35 | 92 | 12 | — | 147 |
| August 2006 | — | 5 | 29 | 74 | 9 | — | 117 |
| September 2006 | 1 | 10 | 37 | 87 | 12 | 2 | 149 |
| October 2006 | — | 13 | 20 | 68 | 14 | — | 115 |
| November 2006 | 2 | 7 | 45 | 111 | 14 | 2 | 181 |
| December 2006 | — | 7 | 33 | 117 | 18 | — | 175 |
| January 2007 | 1 | 12 | 28 | 85 | 17 | — | 143 |
| February 2007 | — | 10 | 39 | 84 | 17 | — | 150 |
| March 2007 | — | 12 | 52 | 106 | 13 | 1 | 184 |
| April 2007 | — | 9 | 22 | 89 | 12 | — | 132 |
| May 2007 | — | 12 | 33 | 91 | 13 | — | 149 |
| June 2007 | 2 | 12 | 43 | 83 | 12 | 1 | 133 |
| July 2007 | 4 | 8 | 30 | 87 | 19 | 1 | 149 |
| August 2007 | 3 | 11 | 30 | 55 | 13 | — | 112 |
| September 2007 | 3 | 9 | 31 | 89 | 20 | — | 154 |
| October 2007 | 4 | 3 | 34 | 76 | 16 | — | 133 |
| November 2007 | 7 | 9 | 36 | 102 | 15 | 2 | 171 |
| December 2007 | 7 | 12 | 27 | 97 | 15 | — | 158 |
| January 2008 | 8 | 8 | 30 | 65 | 21 | 5 | 137 |
| February 2008 | 9 | 9 | 36 | 98 | 22 | — | 174 |
| March 2008 | 11 | 6 | 32 | 70 | 16 | 6 | 141 |
| April 2008 | 7 | 3 | 33 | 77 | 20 | 3 | 144 |
| May 2008 | 7 | 10 | 36 | 69 | 21 | 2 | 145 |
| June 2008 | 7 | 8 | 23 | 69 | 20 | 4 | 131 |
| July 2008 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 50 | 16 | — | 91 |
| August 2008 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 40 | 7 | — | 55 |
| September 2008 | 9 | 0 | 13 | 46 | 12 | 2 | 82 |
| October 2008 | 9 | 0 | 12 | 51 | 13 | — | 85 |
| November 2008 | 14 | 0 | 6 | 39 | 14 | 2 | 75 |
| December 2008 | 33 | 0 | 5 | 36 | 8 | — | 82 |

The total number of those listed above is slightly less than the IPPs received into custody as the tariff has to be recalculated and confirmed by the Public Protection Casework Section following receipt of the trial judge sentencing remarks. The time taken to carry out this process means that a number of recently sentenced IPPs are therefore not included in the above table.

From 14 July 2008 the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 brought in changes to the sentencing framework for IPP sentences, to ensure that they are focused where they can be most effective in protecting the public: on the most serious offenders. The amendments introduced a minimum tariff of two years below which IPPs cannot be given except where offenders have committed extremely serious crimes in the past.

The figures in the following table were taken on 24 April 2009 from the NOMS IPP database, referred to above, and include the same prisoner groups previously mentioned. The table gives the cumulative numbers of prisoners who were beyond tariff at the end of each month since the introduction of the IPP sentence. As the NOMS IPP database captures data on current IPPs only, these figures do not include IPPs who have already been discharged.

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | n/a | 4 | 84 | 551 | 1,456 |
| February | n/a | 6 | 102 | 592 | 1,550 |
| March | n/a | 8 | 126 | 648 | 1,621 |
| April | 0 | 11 | 148 | 712 | 1,711 |
| May | 0 | 14 | 183 | 793 | n/a |
| June | 0 | 16 | 224 | 867 | n/a |
| July | 0 | 21 | 259 | 931 | n/a |
| August | 0 | 31 | 305 | 1,017 | n/a |
| September | 0 | 33 | 351 | 1,093 | n/a |

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| October | 0 | 40 | 395 | 1,168 | n/a |
| November | 2 | 51 | 442 | 1,286 | n/a |
| December | 3 | 64 | 497 | 1,363 | n/a |

The average tariff of those who were released was one year and 134 days. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The information requested to answer how many indeterminate sentences for public protection have been handed down for each type of offence in each month since their introduction is shown in the following tables.

| Month/offence | Arson | GBH wounding, assault, ABH, etc. | Robbery, aggravated burglary, etc. | Possession of a firearm | Sexual offences | Threats to kill |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2005 | — | — | 3 | — | 1 | — |
| June 2005 | 1 | 3 | 6 | — | 1 | — |
| July 2005 | 1 | 4 | 18 | — | 6 | — |
| August 2005 | 6 | 13 | 19 | — | 4 | 1 |
| September 2005 | 2 | 13 | 42 | — | 14 | 3 |
| October 2005 | 7 | 25 | 36 | 2 | 11 | 3 |
| November 2005 | 1 | 14 | 40 | 3 | 20 | 1 |
| December 2005 | 8 | 19 | 22 | 3 | 14 | — |
| January 2006 | 7 | 17 | 29 | 5 | 19 | — |
| February 2006 | 4 | 26 | 45 | 2 | 22 | 2 |
| March 2006 | 5 | 34 | 43 | 5 | 23 | 4 |
| April 2006 | 5 | 23 | 32 | 7 | 22 | 3 |
| May 2006 | 10 | 35 | 25 | 4 | 23 | 4 |
| June 2006 | 14 | 42 | 46 | 6 | 32 | — |
| July 2006 | 11 | 41 | 39 | 6 | 28 | 2 |
| August 2006 | 1 | 35 | 36 | 6 | 23 | — |
| September 2006 | 7 | 36 | 38 | 8 | 33 | 6 |
| October 2006 | 6 | 30 | 31 | 6 | 26 | 3 |
| November 2006 | 13 | 53 | 48 | 6 | 29 | 4 |
| December 2006 | 9 | 39 | 54 | 4 | 40 | 6 |
| January 2007 | 8 | 31 | 42 | 7 | 39 | 2 |
| February 2007 | 9 | 38 | 35 | 3 | 37 | 1 |
| March 2007 | 15 | 52 | 45 | 6 | 35 | 5 |
| April 2007 | 8 | 36 | 29 | 2 | 36 | 4 |
| May 2007 | 8 | 51 | 36 | 1 | 37 | — |
| June 2007 | 11 | 39 | 34 | 10 | 38 | 6 |
| July 2007 | 5 | 47 | 36 | 5 | 39 | 6 |
| August 2007 | 4 | 26 | 30 | 4 | 35 | 1 |
| September 2007 | 4 | 41 | 41 | 5 | 43 | 4 |
| October 2007 | 8 | 34 | 40 | 5 | 28 | 3 |
| November 2007 | — | 57 | 43 | 4 | 40 | 4 |
| December 2007 | 5 | 39 | 38 | 3 | 32 | 2 |
| January 2008 | 7 | 35 | 50 | — | 35 | 2 |
| February 2008 | 7 | 46 | 50 | 4 | 46 | 6 |
| March 2008 | 6 | 39 | 21 | 5 | 40 | 2 |
| April 2008 | 12 | 43 | 26 | 7 | 39 | 3 |
| May 2008 | 9 | 33 | 34 | 9 | 44 | 1 |
| June 2008 | 4 | 30 | 36 | 4 | 42 | 2 |
| July 2008 | 4 | 25 | 14 | 1 | 33 | 1 |
| August 2008 | — | 17 | 16 | 1 | 14 | 2 |
| September 2008 | 5 | 22 | 19 | 1 | 21 | 2 |
| October 2008 | 6 | 18 | 21 | 2 | 27 | 6 |
| November 2008 | 6 | 20 | 15 | — | 21 | 1 |
| December 2008 | 5 | 19 | 24 | 4 | 14 | — |

| Month/offence | Possession of an offensive weapon | Manslaughter | Attempted murder | Other offences | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2005 | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| June 2005 | — | — | — | 2 | 13 |
| July 2005 | — | — | — | 1 | 28 |

| Month/offence | Possession of an offensive weapon | Manslaughter | Attempted murder | Other offences | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| August 2005 | — | — | — | 3 | 46 |
| September 2005 | 1 | — | 1 | 7 | 83 |
| October 2005 | — | 3 | 1 | 9 | 97 |
| November 2005 | — | 3 | 3 | 12 | 97 |
| December 2005 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 77 |
| January 2006 | — | 1 | 4 | 5 | 87 |
| February 2006 | — | 3 | 1 | 8 | 113 |
| March 2006 | — | 1 | 2 | 13 | 150 |
| April 2006 | 2 | — | 3 | 5 | 102 |
| May 2006 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 115 |
| June 2006 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 159 |
| July 2006 | — | 4 | 3 | 13 | 147 |
| August 2006 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 117 |
| September 2006 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 149 |
| October 2006 | — | 2 | 4 | 7 | 115 |
| November 2006 | — | 6 | 6 | 16 | 181 |
| December 2006 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 175 |
| January 2007 | — | 1 | — | 13 | 143 |
| February 2007 | 2 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 150 |
| March 2007 | — | 7 | 1 | 18 | 184 |
| April 2007 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 132 |
| May 2007 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 140 |
| June 2007 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 155 |
| July 2007 | — | 3 | 4 | 4 | 149 |
| August 2007 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 112 |
| September 2007 | — | 2 | 1 | 13 | 154 |
| October 2007 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 133 |
| November 2007 | 1 | — | 4 | 18 | 171 |
| December 2007 | — | 5 | 5 | 9 | 138 |
| January 2008 | — | 3 | — | 5 | 137 |
| February 2008 | — | 3 | 4 | 8 | 174 |
| March 2008 | — | 7 | 9 | 12 | 141 |
| April 2008 | — | 2 | 4 | 8 | 144 |
| May 2008 | — | 3 | 5 | 7 | 145 |
| June 2008 | — | 4 | 8 | 1 | 131 |
| July 2008 | — | 2 | 4 | 8 | 91 |
| August 2008 | 1 | — | 1 | 3 | 55 |
| September 2008 | — | 2 | 5 | 5 | 82 |
| October 2008 | — | — | 1 | 4 | 85 |
| November 2008 | — | 5 | 5 | 2 | 75 |
| December 2008 | — | 2 | 8 | 6 | 82 |

## Prisoners: Foreigners

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the prison population foreign nationals comprised in each year between 1994 and 2004. [276849]

**Mr. Straw:** The percentage of foreign national prisoners (FNPs) in England and Wales prisons as at 30 June each year for the years 1994-2004 inclusive is in the following table. Number of FNPs and the total number of prisoners is included for completeness.

| | All prisoners | FNPs | FNPs of total prisoners (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 48,879 | 3,781 | 8 |
| 1995 | 51,084 | 4,089 | 8 |
| 1996 | 55,256 | 4,259 | 8 |
| 1997 | 61,467 | 4,677 | 8 |
| 1998 | 65,727 | 5,133 | 8 |
| 1999 | 64,529 | 5,388 | 8 |
| 2000 | 65,194 | 5,986 | 9 |
| 2001 | 66,403 | 6,926 | 10 |
| 2002 | 71,218 | 7,719 | 11 |
| 2003 | 72,286 | 8,728 | 12 |
| 2004 | 74,488 | 8,941 | 12 |

These data were published in December 2005 in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004. A copy of this statistical bulletin is in the House of Commons Library and may also be found at the following website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosb2005.html#hosbl705tabs

Generally, data on FNPs are published quarterly in the population in custody bulletin, on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

Annual data on FNPs, and other characteristics on the prison population, have been published each year in Offender Management Caseload Statistics from 2003 and before that in Prison Statistics England and Wales. Both publications are in the House of Commons of Library and may also be accessed via the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Prisons

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria his Department uses to determine whether a prison is to be market-tested. [279945]

**Maria Eagle:** Public sector prisons were short listed for market test if identified as either poorly performing or high cost. Final selection from the short list was made on the basis of a number of operational criteria and took account of wider evidence, such as HM Inspectorate of Prisons reports.

## Prisons: Mental Health Services

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the East of England region have been transferred from prison to a secure mental health unit in each of the last five years. [280222]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of prisoners transferred in each of the last five years is given in the table.

| | *Essex* | *East of England* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 22 | 79 |
| 2005 | 18 | 62 |
| 2006 | 14 | 83 |
| 2007 | 17 | 57 |
| 2008 | 13 | 69 |

## Prisons: Operating Costs

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the running costs of each *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector prison in England and Wales in each year since 1990. [271677]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested spans a period of 19 years and requires information on over 130 prisons, which due to changes in structures, funding sources and accounting principles over this time is neither straightforward to produce nor comparable. These data are not held centrally. However some information can be found in the Prison Service annual report and accounts which shows direct spend at prisons each year back to 1994-95 and copies of which are available in the Library of both Houses of Parliament. Current budgets for each prison in 2008-09 is shown in the table.

| *Estab. name* | *Budget per Phoenix 2008-09 (£)* |
|---|---|
| Acklington | 18,815,756.77 |
| Ashwell | 12,177,863.00 |
| Askham Grange | 3,624,049.00 |
| Aylesbury | 13,446,360.52 |
| Bedford | 11,725,353.49 |
| Belmarsh | 41,046,600.00 |
| Birmingham | 30,566,795.24 |
| Blantyre House | 3,101,231.00 |
| Blundeston | 13,488,075.92 |
| Brinsford | 17,008,808.00 |
| Bristol | 15,793,668.05 |
| Brixton | 20,455,893.55 |
| Buckley Hall | 9,599,806.00 |
| Bullingdon | 23,980,927.23 |
| Bullwood Hall | 6,815,529.00 |
| Canterbury | 7,477,044.52 |
| Cardiff | 17,200,765.82 |
| Castington | 14,929,537.92 |
| Channings Wood | 16,113,351.00 |
| Chelmsford | 17,256,998.00 |
| Coldingley | 14,835,214.00 |
| Coltishall | 2,809,654.00 |
| Cookham Wood | 8,148,139.00 |
| Dartmoor | 16,859,855.28 |
| Deerbolt | 15,282,714.06 |
| Dorchester | 7,838,179.00 |
| Dover | 7,440,314.88 |
| Downview | 10,357,475.00 |
| Drake Hall | 8,531,026.24 |
| Durham | 23,119,906.00 |
| East Sutton Park | 2,818,326.00 |
| Eastwood Park | 10,801,956.00 |
| Edmunds Hill | 9,739,665.36 |
| Erlestoke | 11,146,556.00 |
| Everthorpe | 13,391,336.90 |
| Exeter | 13,217,148.00 |
| Featherstone | 14,996,309.92 |
| Feltham | 33,319,932.00 |
| Ford | 8,727,818.88 |
| Foston Hall | 10,119,191.99 |
| Frankland | 39,259,000.00 |
| Full Sutton | 29,808,000.00 |
| Garth | 21,219,920.00 |
| Gartree | 16,557,342.00 |
| Glen Parva | 19,276,626.00 |
| Gloucester | 9,298,962.00 |
| Grendon | 10,200,851.00 |
| Guys Marsh | 11,892,519.00 |
| Haslar | 3,758,981.00 |
| Haverigg | 14,809,774.00 |
| Hewell | 29,378,539.00 |
| Highdown | 26,932,033.85 |
| Highpoint | 17,317,312.04 |
| Hindley | 18,268,763.00 |
| Hollesley Bay | 6,798,085.84 |
| Holloway | 21,205,168.00 |

| Estab. name | Budget per Phoenix 2008-09 (£) |
|---|---|
| Holme House | 20,826,739.52 |
| Hull | 22,171,024.00 |
| Huntercombe | 13,607,174.65 |
| IoW Cluster | 38,980,239.17 |
| Isle of Sheppey—Central Services | 49,307,756.78 |
| Kennet | 13,300,719.00 |
| Kingston | 6,312,871.10 |
| Kirkham | 13,728,206.72 |
| Kirklevington Grange | 5,746,769.00 |
| Lancaster Castle | 7,651,736.00 |
| Lancaster Farms | 17,988,179.00 |
| Latchmere House | 4,768,086.98 |
| Leeds | 23,369,626.00 |
| Leicester | 9,636,560.00 |
| Lewes | 17,144,136.14 |
| Leyhill | 10,358,901.00 |
| Lincoln | 15,762,616.00 |
| Lindholme | 20,231,951.61 |
| Lindholme IND | 1,052,082.96 |
| Littlehey | 12,927,501.00 |
| Liverpool | 27,319,527.91 |
| Long Lartin | 26,111,000.00 |
| Low Newton | 11,980,536.00 |
| Maidstone | 11,832,395.49 |
| Manchester | 34,426,000.00 |
| Moorland | 20,747,120.54 |
| Morton Hall | 8,802,535.42 |
| Mount (The) | 16,374,311.00 |
| New Hall | 16,016,654.04 |
| North Sea Camp | 6,267,578.11 |
| Northallerton | 5,877,306.00 |
| Norwich | 15,945,138.96 |
| Nottingham | 15,458,062.00 |
| Onley | 17,740,121.28 |
| Pentonville | 27,156,810.70 |
| Portland | 16,489,734.00 |
| Preston | 19,064,226.00 |
| Ranby | 21,814,740.65 |
| Reading | 9,450,511.00 |
| Risley | 22,885,172.76 |
| Rochester | 16,914,868.00 |
| Send | 8,897,619.48 |
| Shepton Mallet | 6,185,807.34 |
| Shrewsbury | 8,695,335.88 |
| Springhill | 5,382,318.00 |
| Stafford | 15,303,034.00 |
| Stocken | 17,268,796.00 |
| Stoke Heath | 18,378,866.99 |
| Styal | 15,285,675.97 |
| Sudbury | 9,014,751.00 |
| Swansea | 9,946,914.64 |
| Swinfen Hall | 15,279,517.24 |
| Thorn Cross | 9,160,478.19 |
| Usk | 9,135,677.86 |
| Verne (The) | 12,339,122.00 |
| Wakefield | 29,550,400.00 |
| Wandsworth | 35,191,544.28 |
| Warren Hill | 9,764,911.02 |
| Wayland | 18,572,691.24 |
| Wealstun | 17,454,202.00 |
| Wellingborough | 13,850,822.00 |
| Werrington | 6,958,673.00 |
| Wetherby | 14,917,808.10 |
| Whatton | 19,209,540.00 |
| Whitemoor | 31,487,000.36 |
| Winchester | 14,840,462.14 |
| Woodhill | 32,056,999.66 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 28,315,606.00 |
| Wymott | 23,743,121.00 |
| Total | 2,003,841,931.15 |

## Probation Officers

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum offender caseload is of a probation officer. [279685]

**Maria Eagle:** Figures for 31 December 2008 show that the average caseload per Probation Officer across the 42 probation areas in England and Wales ranged from 18 to 54 cases. Figures for the highest recorded caseload ranged from 38 to 92.

## Public Opinion: Ministry of Justice

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will introduce legislation to prevent the courts from accepting the opinion of experts paid by local authorities as to the capacity of parties to give instructions to solicitors; and if he will make a statement. [279273]

**Bridget Prentice:** There are no plans to introduce legislation. Where a person involved in legal proceedings lacks capacity (within the meaning of the Mental Capacity Act 2005) to conduct proceedings, their interests must be protected by the appointment of a 'litigation friend'. Where the issue of capacity is in question, it will often be the case that a court will require the assistance of a medical report to take an evidence based view. If such an expert report is ordered the expert has an overriding duty to the court that takes precedence over any obligation to the person from whom the expert has received instructions or by whom the expert is paid.

## Sentencing: Crimes of Violence

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average a person convicted of *(a)* grievous bodily harm and *(b)* violent disorder was sentenced to serve in custody in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [278928]

**Claire Ward:** The following table shows the average determinate custodial sentence length for all persons sentenced for grievous bodily harm and violent disorder in 2007 where such an offence was the principal offence for which the offender was sentenced. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

*Average custodial sentence length[1] (months) for offenders sentenced for grievous bodily harm[2] or violent disorder[3], 2007*

| | Total for 2007 | Total sentenced to immediate custody |
|---|---|---|
| Grievous bodily harm | 27.5 | 3,733 |
| Violent disorder | 15.9 | 367 |

[1] Average custodial sentence length excludes life/indeterminate sentences.
[2] Offences of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, Causing explosion or casting corrosive fluids with intent to do grievous bodily harm, malicious wounding, racially aggravated malicious wounding or GBH, religiously aggravated wounding or GBH, racially or religiously aggravated wounding or GBH.
[3] Public Order Act 1986
*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

## Young Offenders

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what definition is used by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) of a *(a)* removal from association and *(b)* restrictive physical intervention in (i) the juvenile secure estate as a whole, (ii) secure children's homes, (iii) secure training centres and (iv) young offender institutions; what guidance the YJB provides on the interpretation of that definition; and if he will make a statement. [278472]

**Maria Eagle:** For data collection purposes, the Youth Justice Board defines restrictive physical intervention as

"Any occasion when force is used with the intention of overpowering or to overpower a young person. Overpower is defined as 'restricting movement or mobility'".

'Removal from association' is a legislative term in relation to practice in young offender institutions and secure training centres. The relevant provisions are rule 49 of the Young Offender Institution Rules 2000 and rule 36 of the Secure Training Centre Rules 1998. For data collection purposes, the Youth Justice Board uses the term 'single separation'.

Single separation is any instance where a young person is contained, for the purposes of control, within a locked room or enclosure with visible barriers, without staff, and cannot leave the room or enclosure whenever they want to do so. 'Purposes of control' includes preventing harm to others, harm to self and damage to property.

Single separation includes situations where staff members act as physical barriers by blocking a doorway and preventing a young person from leaving a room.

Single separation does not include any situation where a young person chooses to remove him- or herself from a group in order to calm down or have time out, so long as the young person has the ability to rejoin the group whenever he or she chooses to do so. Nor does it include periods when all trainees are in their rooms, for example during night hours.

The independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings, which was published together with the Government's response on 15 December 2008, made important recommendations about improving practice and making sure restraint is used as sparingly as possible. The Government and the Youth Justice Board are working together to implement those recommendations.

## Young Offenders: Crime Prevention

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce levels of re-offending by young offenders. [279671]

**Claire Ward:** The latest statistics show a 23.6 per cent. reduction in the frequency rate of juvenile reoffending between 2000 and 2007. The Government's approach to reducing reoffending is detailed in the Youth Crime Action Plan, published last summer. This sets out the triple-track approach of enforcement, non-negotiable support and prevention.

## Young Offenders: Crimes of Violence

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged under 18 years in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point were convicted of (i) grievous bodily harm and (ii) violent disorder in each of the last five years; and what the average length of custodial sentence was in each case. [279280]

**Claire Ward:** The available information is shown in the table; the figures presented are for Essex police force area, it is not possible to separate offences that occurred in Castle Point.

*Number of offenders aged under 18 sentenced and average custodial sentence length[1] (ACSL) (months) for grievous bodily harm[2] and violent disorder[3], Essex police force area, 2003-07*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total sentenced for grievous bodily harm | 16 | 10 | 18 | 10 | 14 |
| Total sentenced for violent disorder | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Total immediate custodial sentences for GBH | 9 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 8 |
| Total immediate custodial sentences for violent disorder | n/a | n/a | 1 | 0 | n/a |
| ACSL for grievous bodily harm | 12.2 | 16.7 | 20.6 | 12.8 | 18.0 |
| ACSL for violent disorder | n/a | n/a | 12.0 | n/a | n/a |

n/a = Not applicable
[1] ACSL excludes life/indeterminate sentences
[2] Offences of: Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, causing explosion or casting corrosive fluids with intent to do grievous bodily harm, Malicious wounding—wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm, Racially aggravated malicious wounding or grievous bodily harm, Religiously aggravated wounding or grievous bodily harm, Racially or religiously aggravated wounding or grievous bodily harm.
[3] Public Order Act 1986
These data are presented on the principal offence basis, where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
*Notes:*
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

The total number sentenced has been provided in lieu of the number convicted, lags in time between conviction and sentencing may mean numbers convicted and sentenced in a year do not match.

### Young Offenders: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people under the age of 21 years in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point were charged with offences after having served a sentence restricted by section 91 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 in each of the last five years. [279281]

**Claire Ward:** The requested information is not available. The data sets compiled by the Ministry of Justice to analyse reoffending by juveniles do not allow for the identification of offenders sentenced to terms of detention under section 91 of the Powers of Criminal Court (Sentencing) Act 2000. Reoffending data for these offenders cannot therefore be produced.

### Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of *(a)* restrictive physical intervention (RPI) and *(b)* removal from association were recorded in respect of those held in each institution in the juvenile secure estate in each month between January 2007 and the latest month for which figures are available; and what the ratio was of (i) RPIs and (ii) removals from association to the number of children and young people in each such institution in each such month.[1] [278239]

**Maria Eagle:** Restraint is only ever to be used by staff as a last resort, when all other approaches have either not succeeded or would not be appropriate.

Because of unruly and sometimes dangerous behaviour, there are occasions on which use of physical restraint is unavoidable. The interests and safety of everyone in the establishment must be considered. Other young people, staff and visitors' safety, as well as that of the young person whose behaviour is causing problems have to be taken into account.

The data contained in the tables have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board. Table A contains data on the number of restrictive physical interventions (RPIs) from April 2007 to March 2009. It is not possible to provide earlier details as comparable statistics across the under-18 secure estate have only been available since April 2007.

Table B contains data for the same period on the number of single separation incidents at secure training centres (STCs) and secure children's homes (SCHs). It is not possible to provide comparable data for young offender institutions (YOIs) as it is not collected centrally and could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

Table C contains data on the ratio of RPIs to the number of young persons in YOIs, STCs, and SCHs. Table D contains data on the ratio of single separation incidents to the number of young persons in STCs and SCHs.

Tables A to D have been placed in the Library.

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions *(a)* nose, rib and thumb distraction and *(b)* pain compliant techniques were used on those of each (i) sex, (ii) age group and (iii) ethnic group (A) with and (B) without a disability in each institution in the juvenile secure estate in each month between January 2007 and the most recent month for which figures are available.[1] [278240]

**Maria Eagle:** The following tables provide data supplied by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) which relate to secure training centres. Data for young offender institutions and secure children's homes are not collected centrally and cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

YJB's code of practice makes it very clear that restraint is not to be used except as a last resort, when other approaches have not succeeded or would not be appropriate.

The independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings, which was published together with the Government's response on 15 December 2008, made important recommendations about improving practice and making sure restraint is used as sparingly as possible. The Government and the Youth Justice Board are working together to implement those recommendations.

Secure training centres currently use an approved system of restraint known as Physical Control in Care (PCC), which includes the rib and thumb distraction techniques. It formerly also included the nose distraction technique: use of this was discontinued in November 2007 in the light of some concerns about its suitability voiced by a panel of medical experts commissioned to review the PCC techniques.

The data provided show the use of nose, rib and thumb distraction techniques in secure training centres during the period January 2007 to March 2009. Information on the age, sex and ethnic origin of the young person restrained has been collected centrally by the YJB since April 2008. Data relating to disability are not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table A analyses the data by type of distraction technique; Table B by sex; Table C by age; and Table D by ethnic group.

*Table A: Use of distraction techniques in secure training centres by technique used, January 2007 to March 2009*

*Nose distraction*

| | 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2008 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* |
| STC total | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

1. *[Official Report, 9 September 2009, Vol. 496, c. 20MC.]*

1. *[Official Report, 9 September 2009, Vol. 496, c. 22MC.]*

*Rib distraction*

| | 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2008 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Thumb distraction*

| | 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2008 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Medway | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

*Nose distraction*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Rib distraction*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Thumb distraction*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Table B: Use of distraction techniques in secure training centres by sex, April 2008 to March 2009*

*Male trainees*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Female trainees*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Female trainees*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Table C: Use of distraction techniques in secure training centres by age of trainee, April 2008 to March 2009*

*Age 12*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Age 13*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Age 14*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Age 15*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Age 16*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Age 17*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| STC total | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Table D: Use of distraction techniques in secure training centres by ethnic origin of trainee*

*Asian trainees*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* |
| STC total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Black trainees*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* |
| STC total | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Trainees of mixed ethnicity*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* |
| STC total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*White trainees*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* |
| STC total | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Other ethnic groups*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* |
| STC total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hassockfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakhill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rainsbrook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 17 June 2009*

## WALES

### EU Grants and Loans

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales for what reasons the amount of EU funding is shown as deducted from the grant to the National Assembly for Wales in the Wales Office Annual Reports up to and including the 2007 report. [280206]

**Mr. Hain:** Spending permission for the National Assembly for Wales to draw down its allocation from the EU Structural Funds in the 2000-06 round was included in its Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) on top of its Barnett determined budget.

It is shown as a deduction in the table in order to reconcile the DEL with the amount of grant drawn down from HMT, described as Total Assembly Grant in the Annual Report.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 70-1W, on EU grants and loans, how much of the above-Barnett formula additions were actually received by the Welsh Assembly in each year. [280277]

**Mr. Hain:** The UK Government granted spending permission to the National Assembly for Wales on top of its Barnett determined budget to allow it to draw down its full allocation of EU Structural Funds in the 2000-06 round.

The actual detail and timing of those draw downs were a matter for the National Assembly itself.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much *(a)* has been paid by and *(b)* is planned to be paid in above-Barnett Formula additions to the block grant for Wales from the EU share funding for Objective One and Convergence Programmes for 2007-13. [280214]

**Mr. Hain:** Funding rules have been changed to permit the Welsh Assembly Government to draw down its full allocation of EU Convergence funding in the 2007-13 round without need for a detrimental impact on its Barnett determined budget.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether the National Assembly for Wales and Welsh Assembly Government's receipts from the EU in respect of Objective One and Convergence Programme funding in Wales are in addition to the overall block grant that they would otherwise have received [280216]

**Mr. Hain:** Yes.

## SCOTLAND

### Postal Services

6. **Sir Robert Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the future of mail and post office services in Scotland. [279149]

**Ann McKechin:** My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

The Government are committed to a stable and sustainable post office network. Since 1999, the Government have invested £3.7 billion in the Post Office including an annual subsidy of £150 million to 2011 to support 7,500 branches that may not survive without public support.

### Devolution

7. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Advocate-General on devolution issues. [279150]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I have regular discussions with the Advocate-General on a variety of matters.

9. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the work of the Commission on Scottish Devolution on the relative powers of members of the UK and Scottish Parliaments. [279152]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Commission on Scottish Devolution published their final report on 15 June. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 5WS.

### House Repossessions

8. **Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on fiscal measures to assist mortgage holders in Scotland who are facing repossession. [279151]

**Ann McKechin:** The Secretary of State has regular discussions with the Chancellor, including at meetings of the National Economic Council, on action needed to deliver real help now to those suffering in the recent economic conditions.

### North Sea Oil and Gas

10. **Miss Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the North sea oil and gas industry on prospects for the industry in 2009-10. [279153]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I and my Department maintain regular contact with representatives of the North Sea oil and gas industry and discuss a wide range of issues affecting the sector.

### Scottish Economy

11. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his most recent assessment is of the state of the Scottish economy. [279154]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Scottish economy has not been immune from the global economic difficulties, and is now officially in recession. The UK Government have delivered a £500 million fiscal boost from Budget 2009 measures, a £2 billion boost as part of the 2008 pre-Budget report, all in addition to the substantial interventions to support the Scottish banks. These Government actions have helped to keep Scottish unemployment levels among the lowest in Europe.

### Future Jobs Fund

12. **Sandra Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the future jobs fund in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [279155]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The £1 billion Future Jobs Fund will provide 150,000 jobs across Great Britain, for 18 to 24 year-olds unemployed for 12 months and for unemployment hotspots.

I will hold a Jobs Summit on 18 of June with Scottish local authorities, SCVO, social enterprises, and charities to build on existing plans to bid, and promote uptake of the Fund in Scotland.

### Economy: Argyll and Bute

13. **Mr. Alan Reid:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the economic situation in Argyll and Bute. [279156]

**Ann McKechin:** The Argyll and Bute economy has not been immune from the global economic difficulties, which has seen the Scottish economy officially in recession. However, at 3.1 per cent. the claimant count rate for Argyll and Bute is below that of the Scottish average. UK Government have delivered a £500 million fiscal boost from Budget 2009 measures, a £2 billion boost as part of the 2008 pre-Budget report, all in addition to the substantial interventions to support the Scottish banks.

### Fuel Duty

14. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent representations he has received on the effects of fuel duty rates on people in remote areas in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [279157]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office has received no such recent representations. Decisions on fuel duty rates are a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who takes into account a range of factors in setting them.

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of invoices his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278831]

**Ann McKechin:** Until October 2008 the Scotland Office and the Office of the Advocate-General were required to monitor and publish payment performance against a 30 day payment target. The first full month of formal recording against the 10 day target was November 2008 and therefore information about payment performance within 10 days is not available prior to this date. Between 1 November 2008 and 31 March 2009 the offices have paid 97.2 per cent. of invoices within 10 days.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* staffing costs, *(b)* IT equipment, *(c)* telecommunications, *(d)* stationery and office supplies, *(e)* utilities and *(f)* travel in each year since 1999. [276987]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The Scotland Office provides support services to the Office of the Advocate-General for Scotland (OAG) and prior to 2003-04, separate records were not maintained for the two offices. The spend was as follows:

| | *Staffing costs* | *IT equipment* | *Telecommunications* | *Stationery and office supplies* | *Utilities*[1] | *Travel* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000[2,3] | 2,026,094 | 20,732 | 20,164 | 22,207 | 55,946 | 212,402 |
| 2000-01[3] | 3,391,412 | 62,033 | 103,492 | 25,270 | 104,687 | 360,085 |
| 2001-02[3] | 3,898,927 | 44,761 | 99,709 | 24,478 | 118,613 | 332,560 |
| 2002-03[3] | 4,368,496 | 94,330 | 90,379 | 25,294 | 123,244 | 322,377 |
| 2003-04 | 2,615,587 | 6,385 | 93,769 | 16,858 | 123,487 | 196,256 |
| 2004-05 | 2,201,361 | — | 80,484 | 11,314 | 133,103 | 163,541 |
| 2005-06 | 1,904,782 | 5,843 | 86,560 | 16,415 | 138,399 | 168,156 |
| 2006-07 | 1,935,725 | — | 76,286 | 17,955 | 156,596 | 182,609 |
| 2007-08 | 2,287,135 | — | 82,793 | 18,943 | 119,365 | 184,240 |

[1] The information relates to buildings where Scotland Office are major occupiers. Costs relating to buildings shared with the Scottish Executive are not separately identifiable.
[2] Part year.
[3] Scotland Office and OAG.

## TRANSPORT

### A13

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans London Gateway Port has to fund improvements to the A13/M25 junction. [280506]

**Paul Clark:** Improvements to Junction 30 of the M25 with the A13 are required as conditions of planning consent for London Gateway. Funding of the improvements is a matter for London Gateway Port Ltd in liaison with the Highways Agency.

### Airports: East of England

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department allocated for the construction of airports in the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [280096]

**Paul Clark:** The Government have not allocated any funding to the construction of airports over the period in question. Investment in new airport infrastructure and facilities is a commercial matter for airport operators. However, the East of England Development Agency has contributed funds towards studies informing decisions about potential investments surrounding Southend and Norwich airports.

### Aviation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has issued guidance to airlines on use of pitot tubes on medium and long-haul jets. [279584]

**Paul Clark:** Civil aviation safety in the UK is regulated by independent aviation safety regulators: the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). As such the Department for Transport does not itself issue guidance.

EASA has been responsible for the regulation of aircraft design issues since 2003, as set out in Regulation (EC) 216/2008. On 9 June 2009, EASA issued a Safety Information Bulletin (SIB) that refers to the pitot system of the aircraft involved in the Air France accident on 1 June 2009. The bulletin reminds operators of the need to ensure that flight crew are fully familiar with procedures associated with unreliable airspeed indications. The UK CAA supports this SIB and will continue to work with EASA and UK airlines on this matter as further information from the investigation emerges.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what assessment his Department has made of the reliability of computerised measurement of airspeeds on A330 aircraft; [279587]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the reliability of the air data inertial reference unit computer system used on A330 aircraft. [279588]

**Paul Clark:** Civil aviation safety in the UK is regulated by independent aviation safety regulators: the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). As such the Department for Transport does not itself assess the reliability of aircraft products and parts.

As part of the type certification process for the Airbus A330, the aircraft design and its systems were required to meet the established safety standards, which addressed the issue of reliability.

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) assumed responsibility for the regulation of aircraft design issues in 2003. Continued compliance with these standards is assured through continuing airworthiness monitoring by the manufacturer (Airbus), overseen by the regulator (EASA).

The UK CAA will continue to work with EASA and UK airlines on any matters related to this accident, as further information from the investigation emerges.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what discussions he has had with the Civil Aviation Authority on the safety of A330 aircraft; [279589]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to assess the safety of A330 aircraft. [279590]

**Paul Clark:** Civil aviation safety in the UK is regulated by independent aviation safety regulators: the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is responsible for the regulation of aircraft design, and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). As such the Department for Transport is not in itself making an assessment of the safety of the A330 aircraft.

The Secretary of State has regular discussions with the Chair of the Civil Aviation Authority. The last meeting was on 9 June 2009 and aviation safety was discussed.

At present, the Civil Aviation Authority remains confident that the appropriate effort and resources are being deployed to ensure the continued safe operation of the Airbus A330 type. If this situation changed, as a result of evidence from the accident investigation, the CAA has the power to take the appropriate safety action in respect of UK-registered aircraft or aircraft operated by UK operators.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research his Department has undertaken into the risks posed by the effect known as coffin corner in relation to aircraft. [279591]

**Paul Clark:** Civil aviation safety in the UK is regulated by independent aviation safety regulators: the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). As such, the Department for Transport has not conducted any research into the 'coffin corner' effect.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on changes in levels of usage of bus services by those on low incomes arising from the (i) national and (ii) local concessionary bus fare schemes. [279708]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* The Department for Transport has commissioned research from the Institute of Transport Studies (ITS) to review the impact of the national and local concessionary travel schemes on overall usage of bus services. This work is expected to provide some specific information on use by those on low incomes, although this is not the primary focus.

The National Travel Survey (NTS) provides data on bus use by income group, although data are not yet available for the past two years.

The Department for Transport intends to use the ITS work, and NTS data later this year to evaluate whether the current arrangements for reimbursing bus operators are appropriate for the longer term.

### Bus Services: Standards

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many assessments under the driving quality monitoring scheme were conducted in *(a)* Liverpool, *(b)* Leeds, *(c)* Sheffield and *(d)* Glasgow in 2008-09; and how many of the assessments in each area found the quality of driving to be unacceptable. [279863]

**Paul Clark:** The following table shows the number of Driver Quality Monitoring (DQM) assessments conducted by the Driving Standards Agency in Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield and Glasgow:

| | 2008-09 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total DQM assessments* | *Unacceptable serious faults* | *Unacceptable dangerous faults* |
| Liverpool | 38 | 9 | 0 |
| Leeds | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sheffield | 40 | 26 | 0 |
| Glasgow | 0 | 0 | 0 |

There are no DQM contracts for Leeds and Glasgow for the period. A contract covering Leeds was agreed in May 2009.

### Crossrail Line: Finance

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport, what estimate he has made of the sum which the London supplementary business rate for Crossrail will raise in gross revenue in each year of its operation; and what percentage of the cost of the project this contribution represents. [279903]

**Mr. Khan:** The funding package for Crossrail announced by the Prime Minister in October 2007 reflects a contribution of £4.1 billion in relation to the Business Rate Supplement, £3.5 billion of which will be borrowed by the Mayor of London against the revenues to be raised from a business rate supplement in the future and the remaining estimated £600 million being business rate supplement revenues to be contributed directly to the project during the period of construction.

The Crossrail Sponsors Agreement (signed by Transport for London and the Department for Transport in December 2008) includes a forecast profile of the year on year amounts to be raised by the Mayor through the Crossrail business rate supplement to support his contribution to the project. However, the forecast profile was not published in the redacted form of the Sponsors Agreement laid in the Library of the House last December. This was due to the commercial sensitivities around the year on year funding detail of the project as a whole, with the majority of contracts still to be let and with agreements to be reached with lenders.

It is for the Mayor to determine his approach to raising a business rate supplement for Crossrail, within the framework to be set out by legislation, and to determine the gross revenue to be raised in each year of its operation. Under schedule 1 of the Business Rate Supplements Bill, which is currently being considered by Parliament, the Mayor will be required to set out a wide range of information in a prospectus to be used as the basis for consulting on the proposal to levy a business rate supplement. This information will include project costs and estimates of the amount of money the Mayor expects to raise from the business rate supplement year on year.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 295W, on departmental conditions of employment, what his most recent estimate is of the cost of modifying systems in his Department's shared service centre to accommodate the workings of the flexible benefits project. [279994]

**Chris Mole:** The cost of modifying systems in the Department for Transport's shared service centre to accommodate the workings of the flexible benefits project is £62,700. This includes architecture changes, programming and payroll reconfiguration.

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 485W, on departmental conditions of employment, on what calculations the estimate that the level of take-up required to break even with the scheme is about 2 per cent. over three years was based. [280007]

**Chris Mole:** The cost of implementing and administering flexible benefits over three years is £173,000, including reconfiguration of the shared services centre system. To break even with the scheme will require a 2 per cent. take-up of the benefits we are considering, which equates to an estimated annual spend of £535,000, with aggregated employer national insurance contribution savings of £183,000 over three years. The costing model has been verified by Deloitte who are acting as our benefit consultants.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on hiring non-departmental premises for *(a)* hospitality and entertainment and *(b)* training events in the last 12 months. [279645]

**Chris Mole:** In the most recent completed financial year, 2008-09, the Department for Transport's agencies spent £12,700 on hiring non-departmental premises in respect of hospitality and entertainment and £369,468 in respect of training events.

The accounting systems of the core Department do not record such costs separately from other related expenditure, so the information sought cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

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## Departmental Press

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279424]

**Chris Mole:** The list of newspapers and periodicals that are delivered to the ministerial private offices of the Department for Transport are as follows:

*Newspapers*

*Daily Express*
*Daily Mail*
*Daily Mirror*
*Daily Telegraph*
*Financial Times*
*The Guardian*
*Evening Standard 1st Edition*
*Evening Standard West End Final*
*Standard West End Final Extra*
*Local Government Chronicle*
*The Times*
*The Independent*
*The Sun*
*Yorkshire Post*
*Lloyds List*

*Periodicals*

*The Economist*
*New Statesman*
*Modern Railways*
*National Geographic*
*Prospect*
*Buses*
*Private Eye*
*The Spectator*
*Commercial Motor*
*Railway Magazine*

The total cost for period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 was £9,239.16.

## Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many private finance initiative projects have been agreed by his Department in each of the last five years. [280387]

**Chris Mole:** The following table summarises the local authority private finance initiative projects agreed by the Department for Transport in the last five years:

| *Calendar year* | *Number of local authority projects receiving conditional approval* |
|---|---|
| 2009 (to date) | 1 (Sheffield highway maintenance) |
| 2008 | 2 (Street lighting) |
| 2007 | 8 (Street lighting) |
| 2006 | 1 (Thames Gateway, cancelled by Mayor of London) |
| 2005 | 1 (Street lighting) |
| 2004 | 7 (Street lighting) |

Prior to receiving a full outline business case and granting conditional approval, the Department may grant provisional approval for a local authority project. There are currently four local authority PFI projects with provisional approvals:

Mersey Crossing;

Nottingham Express Tram extension;

Hounslow highway maintenance; and

Isle of Wight highway maintenance.

In addition, *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJEU) notices were issued for the following non local authority projects, initiating procurement:

| *Calendar year* | *Number of non-local authority projects issuing OJEU notices* |
|---|---|
| 2009 (to date) | 0 |
| 2008 | 0 |
| 2007 | 0 |
| 2006 | 1 (Joint MCA/MOD search and rescue helicopters) |
| 2005 | 1 (Highways Agency M25 DBFO) |
| 2004 | 0 |

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many private finance initiative projects are being negotiated by each directorate in his Department. [280388]

**Chris Mole:** The search and rescue helicopters private finance initiative (PFI) is being negotiated by a joint Ministry of Defence and Maritime and Coastguard Agency project team.

While the Department for Transport currently sponsors a number of local authority PFI projects, these are negotiated directly by the local authority project teams.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has for the future use of the private finance initiative in the *(a)* procurement, *(b)* construction and *(c)* operation of transport projects. [280389]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport updates details of the signed (i.e. in construction and operational phases) private finance initiatives (PFI) projects it sponsors, on the HM Treasury website at six monthly intervals:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp-pfi_stats.htm

The HM Treasury list was last updated in April 2009, since then the Highways Agency has also awarded the M25 widening DBFO.

The Department is sponsoring a further 13 local authority projects that are in procurement and four in pre-procurement. In addition to this the Department's Maritime and Coastguard Agency is jointly procuring a search and rescue helicopter PFI with the Ministry of Defence.

The Department has a further £1.69 billion in unallocated PFI credits that are available for use on local authority PFI projects.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279391]

**Chris Mole:** Special advisers receive training as appropriate to enable them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers".

In the last 12 months special advisers in the Department for Transport have attended mandatory Information and Communication Technology training courses at a total cost of £141.67 to the Department.

### Driving Standards Agency: Consultants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Driving Standards Agency spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [280343]

**Paul Clark:** In each of the last five years the Driving Standards Agency spent the following amounts on consultants:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 3,617,982 |
| 2005-06 | 1,210,003 |
| 2006-07 | 5,139,575 |
| 2007-08 | 3,532,192 |
| 2008-09 | 3,418,022 |

### Driving Tests: Motorcycles

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the arrangements for the safety of candidates taking the Module One motorcycle test; and if he will make a statement. [279306]

**Paul Clark:** In order to design a safe off-road manoeuvre test to comply with the European Directive, the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) undertook trials and risk assessments involving rider training organisations. The Agency tested the proposals in public consultation and benchmarked ideas with comparable organisations in other member states.

Prior to the introduction of the two-part motorcycle test, DSA carried out a risk assessment of both Modules of the new test.

This included assessments and identification of appropriate controls of the testing area, including the boundaries and the surface of the off-road manoeuvring area. The level of preparedness of test candidates was also assessed.

Copies of the risk assessment have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Driving: Working Hours

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will seek an exemption for recreational horsebox drivers from EU regulations on drivers' hours; and if he will make a statement. [280090]

**Paul Clark:** The EU drivers' hours rules, which are directly applicable in all EU member states, apply to most drivers of goods vehicles in excess of 3.5 tonnes.

There are a number of exemptions from the EU rules, one of which applies to vehicles not exceeding 7.5 tonnes used for the non-commercial carriage of goods—which would include some privately owned horseboxes.

### Electric Vehicles

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the cost of establishing a recharging point for electric and hybrid plug-in vehicles. [279585]

**Mr. Khan:** The cost of installing a recharging point for electric vehicles will depend on what type of technology is used, its location and what, if any, ancillary work—for example ground works, utility connection, signage—is needed. Procuring points in volume or where supporting infrastructure already exists is likely to be significantly cheaper.

As a broad indication of the range of possible costs, free standing on street charging points may cost between £500 and £3,500, with accompanying street works where required costing up to £5,000. The total cost of installing a plug point on a wall where a power supply exists may be in the region of £250 to £1,000. More innovative fast charging or battery swap infrastructure would be more expensive to deliver.

It should also be noted that many motorists are likely to choose to recharge their electric and plug in hybrid vehicles at home overnight, provided they have secure access to a standard 13 amp socket. This would not cost anything at all.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many recharging points for electric and hybrid plug-in vehicles he expects to be procured from the £20 million allocated for that purpose in the 2009 Budget. [279586]

**Mr. Khan:** The Secretary of State for Transport announced in April that up to £20 million will be provided by the Department to support the development of infrastructure supporting electric vehicles in select lead cities and regions in the UK. An estimate has not been made at this time as to the total number of recharging points likely to be procured under the scheme. A range of charging technologies and infrastructure solutions exist, which vary in scale and cost. The total number of recharging points supported from the £20 million allocated will therefore depend on local plans and requirements.

Applications for funding will be judged on a range of criteria, which will include the number of public charging points delivered. Further details on the scheme will be announced shortly.

### Heathrow Airport

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect of a third runway at Heathrow Airport on the quality of life of people living in *(a)* Tooting and *(b)* the London Borough of Wandsworth. [279534]

**Paul Clark:** Our assessment of the likely effects of a third runway at Heathrow airport was presented in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document published on 22 November 2007.

That showed that Tooting and the London borough of Wandsworth would not generally be overflown by any arriving or departing aircraft in the event of a third runway. This would be an improvement on the present position for these areas which experience some overflying by arriving aircraft at a height of 3,000 feet or less.

### London and Continental Railways

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 24-26WS, on London and Continental Railways, what estimate he has made of the monetary value of *(a)* St. Pancras International station and *(b)* the high speed rail line from St. Pancras International station to the Channel Tunnel. [279657]

**Chris Mole:** The Government are currently engaged in a restructuring of London and Continental Railways. Following this, it is the Government's intention, as market conditions allow, to sell a long-term concession for High Speed 1 in such a way as to maximise value for money for the taxpayer.

The estimate of the expected proceeds is commercially confidential and to publish the information might condition the competitive sale process and damage value.

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 24-26WS, on London and Continental Railways, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of restructuring *(a)* HS1 Ltd and *(b)* the UK's interest in Eurostar. [279658]

**Chris Mole:** The restructuring of London and Continental Railways (LCR) announced on 8 June 2009 involved no further commitment of public funds over and above those committed during the restructurings of the company in 1998, 2001 and 2002.

The current financial restructuring provides for the redistribution of support already committed to allow LCR's subsidiary businesses to be established on a stand-alone commercial basis. This will allow the value of those businesses to be realised in due course with a commensurate reduction in the overall level of state support.

### M25

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the public sector comparator figure is for the M25 design, build, finance and operate widening project. [278571]

**Chris Mole:** The Public Sector Comparator is expressed in Net Present Value terms (NPV) in accordance with HMT guidance. The NPV for the M25 Design, Build, Finance and Operate Contract is £3.40 billion. The equivalent NPV figure for the Public Sector Comparator is £3.83 billion.

### Motor Vehicles: Foreigners

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of foreign-registered *(a)* heavy goods vehicles, *(b)* vans, *(c)* cars and *(d)* motorcycles using UK roads in each of the last five years. [279600]

**Paul Clark:** Estimates of foreign registered traffic are not available for any years prior to 2007.

In 2007 0.5 per cent. of British traffic, around one in every 215 kilometres, was estimated to be driven by foreign registered vehicles. These 2007 figures are not available broken down by vehicle type, and such estimates could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, estimates of the rate of foreign registered traffic for 2008, including analyses by vehicle type, are due to be published within the Department for Transport's Statistical Bulletin, 'Road Statistics 2008', on 25 June 2009.

### Motor Vehicles: Registration

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what proportion of vehicles registered in each of the last 10 years were vehicles previously registered abroad. [280374]

**Paul Clark:** The following table provides the number of vehicles previously registered abroad for the last eight financial years. Also displayed are the total number of vehicles registered and the proportion of vehicles previously registered abroad against the total number of vehicles registered. Figures are not available for financial years 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

| *Financial year* | *Total vehicles registered* | *Vehicles previously registered abroad* | *Percentage of vehicles previously registered abroad* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 2,448,918 | 75,101 | 3.1 |
| 2007-08 | 3,013,123 | 95,038 | 3.2 |
| 2006-07 | 2,957,135 | 93,233 | 3.2 |
| 2005-06 | 3,017,849 | 109,785 | 3.6 |
| 2004-05 | 3,159,400 | 124,124 | 3.9 |
| 2003-04 | 3,247,359 | 135,926 | 4.2 |
| 2002-03 | 3,230,476 | 113,414 | 3.5 |
| 2001-02 | 3,198,759 | 105,466 | 3.3 |

## Railways

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the capacity of the existing rail network for *(a)* passenger and *(b)* freight services. [281097]

**Chris Mole:** During the preparation of the 2007 Rail White Paper, the Government carried out assessments of the adequacy of the capacity of the rail network. The assessments drew on work carried out by the rail industry, and the outcome is published in the 2007 Rail White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Railway' available from the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/whitepapercm7176

Since its publication, the Government have asked Network Rail to undertake a new lines study to identify longer term capacity requirements.

Initial results from Network Rail's study indicated a long-term capacity gap from London to the West Midlands, which is why we have tasked High Speed Two to advise on the feasibility of a new high speed line from London to the West Midlands as a first stage, and beyond the West Midlands at the level of broad corridors.

## Railways: Fares

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of an assumption of an increase in unregulated rail fares of RPI plus one per cent. in each franchise contract *(a)* in January 2010 and *(b)* at the renewal date of each franchise. [279710]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* The levels of unregulated fares are a commercial matter for individual train operators. For business planning purposes' operators may make assumptions of any projected changes to unregulated fares, but this is a matter for the operator concerned.

## Railways: Finance

**John Barrett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what account his Department takes of the effect of expenditure on railways on levels of tax receipts from other modes of transport when considering future rail spending plans. [280256]

**Chris Mole:** The account taken of changes in tax receipts from other modes in the economic appraisal of rail schemes, and hence in considering spending plans, is set out in the paper "NATA Refresh—Appraisal for a Sustainable Transport System" published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/archive/2008/consulnatarefresh/natarefresh2009.pdf

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding his Department is providing for community rail partnerships in 2009-10. [280733]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport does not provide core funding for Community Rail Partnerships, which are essentially local organisations and therefore locally funded.

However, through the franchising process and grants to Network Rail, the Department provides funding for the services promoted by partnerships. It also provides core funding for the national umbrella body representing and supporting partnerships, the Association of Community Rail Partnerships. Working with Network Rail, the Department makes available small grants to contribute towards specific projects such as promotions and small scale station improvements. It will also be making grants to assist with training and development of employees for Community Rail Partnerships on officially designated routes.

## Railways: Franchises

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of his Department's *(a)* actual and *(b)* potential liabilities under revenue support clauses in contracts with train operators in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; what assessment he has made of the effects of passenger number projections on those liabilities in each case; and if he will make a statement; [279581]

(2) what funding has been allocated to his Department to meet liabilities or potential liabilities under revenue support clauses in train operator franchises in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; [279593]

(3) how much has been allocated from the rail budget for Control Period Four to cover revenue support clauses in train operator franchises. [279602]

**Chris Mole:** The amount of any revenue support payable to eligible franchise holders is dependant on the performance of individual franchises and is set out in the relevant franchise contracts with the Department for Transport.

The Department's internal forecasts for and amounts payable or receivable under these revenue sharing arrangements are commercially confidential.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding to meet liabilities or potential liabilities under revenue support clauses in train operator franchises. [279592]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has regular discussions with Treasury Ministers and officials on a range of issues concerning railway finances. Revenue support and sharing arrangements is one of these issues.

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of the rail budget has been allocated to settle franchise disputes in Control Period Four. [279901]

**Chris Mole:** The Government expect all operators to adhere to the terms of the contracts that they have entered into with the Department for Transport. As such, no specific funds have been allocated for the settlement of any disputes.

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many disputes were dealt with by the Rail Industry Dispute Resolution Committee in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [279902]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport does not hold information on the number of cases handled by the Rail Industry Dispute Resolution Committee. The hon. Member should write to the Committee itself at the following address:

John Gott
Railway Industry Dispute Resolution Committee
Central House
14 Upper Woburn Place
London
WC1H 0HY

### Railways: South East

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was spent by his Department on the re-letting of the South Central franchise. [280386]

**Chris Mole:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 177-78W.

### Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding has been allocated to his Department's infrastructure grant programme for low carbon transport. [279546]

**Mr. Khan:** The Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Grant Programme (AFIGP) was launched in 2005 with a budget of £500,000 grant funding per year.

In addition, the then Secretary of State for Transport announced in April that up to £20 million will be provided by the Department to support the development of infrastructure supporting electric vehicles in a few lead cities and regions in the UK.

More broadly the Department supports low carbon transport through a wide range of funding streams and other policies.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effects of his Department's infrastructure grant programme on progress towards meeting targets on renewable sources for transport fuel use. [279547]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport's principal policy for delivering progress towards meeting targets on renewable sources for transport fuel use is the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). The Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Grant Programme is designed to trial and demonstrate infrastructure to support a range of alternatively fuelled vehicles.

### Roads: Accidents

**Andrew George:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 773-74W, on roads: accidents, what the combined duration of road closures in each police force area in the south west was *(a)* from July to December 2005, *(b)* in 2006, *(c)* in 2007, *(d)* in 2008 and *(e)* in 2009 to date. [279995]

**Chris Mole:** The table provides the combined duration of road closures, due to road traffic accidents by police force area in the south west for each area of the periods requested.

The information available is for road traffic accidents where the police have requested Highways Agency involvement. No data are held for those occurrences where the police have dealt with an accident alone.

*Motorways by police force area from July 2005 onwards*

| | Duration of road closures in hours/minutes on motorways per year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *July 2005 onwards* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| Avon and Somerset | 34:45 | 37:04 | 82:30 | 54:30 | 11:30 |
| Wiltshire | n/a | 11:50 | 21:05 | 38:15 | 4:25 |
| Gloucester | 15:05 | 13:55 | 60:35 | 32:30 | 1:50 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0:30 | 2:30 | 11:10 | 6:25 | 0:55 |

**Andrew George:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 773-74W, on roads: accidents, what the combined duration of road closures on each trunk road referred to was *(a)* in the period July to December 2005, *(b)* in 2006, *(c)* in 2007, *(d)* in 2008 and *(e)* in the period January to June 2009. [279996]

**Chris Mole:** The table provides the combined duration of road closures due to road traffic accidents for each trunk road in each of the periods requested.

The information available is for road traffic accidents where the police have requested Highways Agency involvement. No data are held for those occurrences where the police have dealt with an accident alone. Also, the data available for all purpose trunk roads west of Exeter are from autumn 2006 onwards, and from July 2005 for other Highways Agency roads in the south west network.

*All purpose trunk roads*

| | Duration of road closures in hours/minutes on all purpose trunk roads per year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Trunk road number* | *July to December 2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| A30/A35 DBFO | 0 | 28:40 | 43:25 | 50:40 | 22:30 |
| A30 Non DBFO | n/k | 14:50 | 83:30 | 136:10 | 44:50 |
| A38 | n/k | 3:25 | 63:30 | 138:20 | 61:15 |
| A417/A419 DBFO | 5:30 | 11:30 | 21:00 | 19:00 | 5:30 |
| A36 | 9:15 | 26:20 | 60:00 | 8:50 | 20:15 |
| A303 | 12:40 | 89:10 | 109:20 | 61:10 | 7:45 |
| A30 East of Honiton | 1:10 | 0 | 0 | 4:55 | 0 |
| A4 | 14:10 | 0 | 2:25 | 0 | 0 |
| A40 | 15:10 | 13:50 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 5:25 |
| A46 | 11:30 | 14:50 | 23:00 | 12:00 | 5:00 |

n/k = Not known

### Shipping

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1729W, on

shipping, when he expects to decide whether to conduct a second consultation exercise on the draft regulations; and if he will make a statement. [280123]

**Paul Clark:** During the summer, consideration will be given by the Department for Transport, as to whether a second consultation will be required on draft regulations to control ship to ship transfers of oil in UK territorial waters taking account of comments made by consultees.

### Shipping: Accidents

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will commission the Health and Safety Executive to undertake research into the circumstances surrounding the capsize of *(a)* offshore oil-rig support tugs and *(b)* other vessels in UK and international waters in the last five years for the purposes of improving safety measures in relation to escape routes from such vessels. [279865]

**Paul Clark:** The safety of vessels, including offshore oil-rig support tugs, is a matter for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) rather than the Health and Safety Executive.

A comprehensive review of the circumstances surrounding the capsize of an offshore oil-rig support tug has been completed recently by the Norwegian maritime administration. The conclusions of this review are to be incorporated as appropriate into the "North West European Area Guidelines for the Safe Management of Offshore Supply and Anchor Handling Operations" (NWEA Guidelines) and into international safety regulations under the auspices of the International Maritime Organisation.

The MCA fully endorses the outcome of the Norwegian review, welcomes the improvements to the NWEA Guidelines and believes that further research would not enhance what has already been done recently in this area. In particular, it is considered that current requirements for escape routes from ships are adequate for the risks faced, and that special escape routes from capsized vessels would be impractical and might even increase risk to lives and vessels.

### Shipping: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to set targets for carbon dioxide emissions reductions from the shipping industry. [279976]

**Paul Clark:** Shipping is an international industry and regulation of carbon dioxide from shipping will be most effectively achieved through international action. To this end the Government are seeking to ensure that the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen on 7-18 December 2009 will set an emissions reduction target for the shipping sector.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the accuracy of the methodology for calculating carbon dioxide emissions from shipping. [279977]

**Paul Clark:** The Department of Transport's assessment on this subject was contained in the Department's memorandum of evidence submitted to the Environmental Audit Committee last year. The memorandum is reproduced in the published Environmental Audit Committee report on 'Reducing $CO_2$ and other emissions from shipping' (HC 528, Session 2008-09), on pages Ev 66-70.

### Shipping: Pollution

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking in international fora to reduce pollution emissions from shipping. [279972]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport is involved in a wide range of work within the relevant international and European forums to address pollutant emissions from shipping.

In particular the Department works within the International Maritime Organisation to address a range of pollution issues. Currently this work includes measures to address air quality, garbage and ballast water from shipping, with the Department playing a leading role in recently adopted measures to reduce SOx and NOx emissions from ships.

### Southern: Standards

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the new South Central operator proposed targets for passenger satisfaction as part of its bid. [280377]

**Chris Mole:** The South Central franchise specification required the operator to set targets based on National Passenger Survey results for trains, stations and customer service, split by groups of services—South London, Sussex and Coast and Gatwick Express. If these targets are not achieved the bidder is required to spend up to £0.5 million per annum to implement a plan to rectify any deficiencies.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* enhancements and *(b)* investments stipulated in the South Central franchise will be funded by (i) the Government and (ii) Southern Trains; and how much each will cost. [280383]

**Chris Mole:** The franchising process does not allow for the identification of individual sources of investment. Instead, it provides an overall price to Government of the package that is proposed by the bidder (either subsidy or in the case of South Central a £534 million premium). It is thus not possible to identify the individual investment costs being borne by the South Central operator or the Government.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department plans to spend on staffing of new gating systems for the new South Central franchise; and how much Transport for London has agreed to spend to ensure stations on the new South Central franchise are staffed from first to last service on each operational day. [280385]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport is not funding the staffing of new gating systems on an individual basis. These plans form part of an overall franchise bid and it is not possible to disaggregate staffing costs to this level.

Transport for London will be contributing around £4 million to the franchise.

### Southern: Tickets

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation smartcards are planned to be in place across the whole South Central franchise area by 2012. [280380]

**Chris Mole:** The franchisee is required to install an Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation (ITSO) based smartcard system by January 2012.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the terms are for the delay repay scheme stipulated in the South Central franchise. [280381]

**Chris Mole:** The terms of the delay/repay scheme to be introduced on the new South Central franchise are the same as that introduced on other recent franchise competitions.

The terms apply to all ticket types, with an entitlement to 50 per cent. compensation for a delay of between 30 and 59 minutes; 100 per cent. for a delay of 60-119 minutes and 100 per cent. of the return fare for any delay of 120 minutes or more. For season tickets, compensation is calculated using the proportional daily cost of the ticket.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what period the winning bid for the South Central franchise assumes an RPI plus one per cent. increase for unregulated fares. [280382]

**Chris Mole:** The level of unregulated fares are a matter for individual operators. This remains the position within the South Central franchise. The winning bid has assumed that unregulated fares will increase by RPI +1 per cent. on average across the duration of the franchise.

### Speed Limits: Cameras

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many fixed penalty notices have been issued by each Safety Camera Partnership and successor organisation since 2001. [279597]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport holds only information about speed and red light cameras operating under the National Safety Camera Programme which started in 2001 and ended on 31 March 2007. The numbers of fixed penalty notices issued by each safety camera partnership were not collected. However, details of fixed penalty notices issued and subsequently paid, broken down by partnership area, are outlined in the following table:

*Speed and red light fixed penalty notices paid, by partnership and financial year*

| | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | — | — | 68,067 | 99,151 | 82,054 | 73,914 | 59,555 |
| Bedfordshire | — | — | 50,792 | 60,920 | 58,439 | 50,558 | 50,362 |
| Cambridgeshire | — | 2,257 | 12,856 | 20,763 | 19,941 | 20,998 | 20,474 |
| Cheshire | — | — | — | 30,064 | 37,690 | 33,256 | 32,469 |
| Cleveland | 14,983 | 14,418 | 24,395 | 21,144 | 21,907 | 21,056 | 18,101 |
| Cumbria | — | — | — | 26,979 | 29,792 | 26,836 | 30,984 |
| Derbyshire | — | 10,900 | 32,192 | 47,040 | 40,485 | 30,072 | 29,041 |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | — | 19,749 | 48,974 | 53,204 | 47,508 | 43,144 |
| Dorset | — | — | 23,733 | 65,984 | 49,791 | 50,098 | 46,822 |
| Essex | 30,775 | 58,735 | 94,537 | 85,629 | 78,505 | 78,881 | 65,284 |
| Gloucestershire | — | — | — | — | — | 13,702 | 12,081 |
| Greater Manchester | — | — | — | 48,118 | 41,221 | 59,085 | 67,578 |
| Hampshire | — | — | 29,096 | 41,587 | 52,128 | 48,476 | 45,171 |
| Hertfordshire | — | — | 5,464 | 31,695 | 58,556 | 46,887 | 42,759 |
| Humberside | — | — | 0 | 44,681 | 42,469 | 45,289 | 36,164 |
| Kent | — | — | 30,994 | 54,929 | 60,959 | 50,285 | 61,206 |
| Lancashire | — | 19,953 | 98,495 | 84,560 | 58,869 | 62,887 | 57,551 |
| Leicestershire | — | — | 33,644 | 38,538 | 29,368 | 37,010 | 30,066 |
| Lincolnshire | 10,450 | 10,477 | 26,222 | 23,717 | 25,977 | 29,252 | 21,924 |
| London | — | — | 85,351 | 108,291 | 148,379 | 157,597 | 126,130 |
| Merseyside | — | — | — | — | — | 18,332 | 24,848 |
| Mid and South Wales | 26,117 | 31,271 | 121,076 | 121,353 | 109,224 | 101,014 | 98,031 |
| Norfolk | — | 2,669 | 20,101 | 27,157 | 23,958 | 22,100 | 24,914 |
| North Wales | — | 10,813 | 43,484 | 56,247 | 50,495 | 66,038 | 55,399 |
| Northamptonshire | 36,131 | 45,559 | 59,845 | 55,819 | 47,976 | 51,265 | 42,186 |
| Northumbria | — | — | — | 53,426 | 71,647 | 63,387 | 48,407 |
| Nottinghamshire | 9,273 | 14,472 | 46,711 | 55,530 | 39,392 | 52,940 | 53,129 |
| South Yorkshire | — | — | 15,814 | 52,816 | 51,048 | 60,376 | 41,982 |
| Staffordshire | — | 10,520 | 36,299 | 40,604 | 45,054 | 46,632 | 43,109 |
| Suffolk | — | — | — | 24,144 | 39,406 | 33,087 | 31,623 |

*Speed and red light fixed penalty notices paid, by partnership and financial year*

| | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Surrey | — | — | — | — | — | 23,940 | 39,224 |
| Sussex | — | — | 26,582 | 62,880 | 46,752 | 56,912 | 50,032 |
| Thames Valley | 37,319 | 77,881 | 114,933 | 111,646 | 92,690 | 90,833 | 75,248 |
| Warwickshire | — | 3,405 | 39,810 | 50,862 | 43,454 | 39,088 | 33,536 |
| West Mercia | — | — | — | 51,436 | 51,599 | 47,554 | 44,191 |
| West Midlands | — | — | 11,742 | 46,000 | 54,904 | 48,073 | 45,820 |
| West Yorkshire | — | — | 37,594 | 60,432 | 67,076 | 56,838 | 42,955 |
| Wiltshire | — | — | 21,693 | 39,680 | 51,085 | 48,368 | 50,230 |

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 19W, on speed limits: cameras, whether he has established a regular programme of evaluation of speed cameras. [280073]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport seeks to identify and disseminate examples of good practice across the road safety field generally. In addition, the Department's guidance on the use of safety cameras recommends that speed and collision data are collected by the partnerships and the contribution cameras make to casualty reduction monitored and reviewed, at least annually.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department issues to safety camera partnerships on their *(a)* expenditure on and *(b)* use of communications services. [280076]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport issued DFT Circular 01/2007, 'Guidance on the Deployment of Speed and Red Light Cameras' on 31 January 2007. The guidance was placed in the Libraries of the House and is also available on the Department's website. This recommends that partnerships proactively provide information about safety cameras, including their deployment and benefits, but do so as part of a wider approach to road safety related communications that aim to raise public awareness of behaviours that can cause casualties on the roads. Communications expenditure is entirely a matter for individual local partnerships using funds from their allocation of the Department's specific road safety grant.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards meeting the conditions for closure of the Office of the High Representative; and if he will make a statement. [279700]

**David Miliband:** The last meeting of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) Steering Board on 25-26 March 2009 assessed that Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) had not yet achieved the five objectives and two conditions required for a closure of the Office of the High Representative and urged BiH political leaders to intensify efforts to meet the conditionality. The next formal PIC assessment will take place at its 29-30 June 2009 Steering Board meeting, which is likely to determine that there has been some progress but that further progress is needed, in particular on the allocation of state property, and linked decisions on defence property.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many graduates have been recruited into the European Fast Stream in each year since the establishment of the programme. [270843]

**Mr. Watson:** I have been asked to reply.

The numbers of graduates recruited into the European Fast Stream in each year since the establishment of the programme are contained in the annual reports of the Civil Service Commissioners between 1991 and 1995, and thereafter in the Fast Stream Annual Reports published by the Cabinet Office.

Copies of these documents are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Devolution

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek the addition of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to the UN's list of territories in the process of decolonisation. [280232]

**Chris Bryant:** The arrangements of Chapter XI of the UN Charter (Declaration regarding Non-Self Governing Territories) relate to former colonies for the purposes of domestic and international law. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are part of the UK. As far as the overseas territories are concerned we remain committed to modernising our relationship with them, while fully taking into account the views of the peoples of the Territories. We believe the decision as to whether a non-self-governing territory has reached a level of self-government sufficient to relieve the administering power of the obligation to submit information under Article 73e of the Charter is ultimately for the government of the territory and the administering power concerned and not the UN General Assembly.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 14 February 2009 from Mr. Colin Adams of Newport Pagnell, a constituent of the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes. [267750]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The British embassy in Moscow replied directly to Mr. Adams' letter to the Foreign Secretary, which was dated 16 February 2009, on 5 March 2009.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms J. Wilkinson. [280439]

**David Miliband:** I replied to my right hon. Friend's letter on 10 June 2009.

### Nigeria: Armed Forces

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of Nigeria on its military action in the Niger Delta. [279777]

**Chris Bryant:** The Government have been following events closely since the Nigerian Joint Task Force (JTF) offensive commenced in the Niger Delta in mid-May. Our high commission in Abuja was quick to raise our concerns about the humanitarian impact of the conflict.

We have received assurances from both the Nigerian Foreign Minister and the Nigerian Military High Command that their aim is to avoid civilian casualties and that any humanitarian needs would be addressed. We are continuing to monitor reports from the Delta from non-governmental organisations and others.

We also pressed for the EU Troika to raise the situation with the Nigerian Government in a Ministerial Troika meeting on 9 June 2009.

### Serbia: EU Enlargement

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the *(a)* Serbia-EU interim agreement and *(b)* Serbia-EU Stabilisation and Association Agreement; and if he will make a statement. [279697]

**David Miliband:** The Government welcomed the signature last year of Serbia's Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU. The Government's position remains that ratification of the SAA must be conditional on Serbia's full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). But the Government would be content, on the basis of Serbia's significantly improved co-operation with ICTY, for the EU to begin to implement Serbia's Interim Agreement with the EU.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on *(a)* the implementation of the Serbia-EU interim agreement and *(b)* ratification of the Serbia-EU Stabilisation and Association Agreement; and if he will make a statement. [279698]

**David Miliband:** The implementation of Serbia's Interim Agreement with the EU and ratification of its Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU were discussed at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 23 February 2009, the informal meeting of Foreign Ministers (Gymnich) on 28 March 2009 and the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 15 June 2009. On 15 June I had made clear to EU partners that, on the basis of Serbia's significantly improved co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the EU should be prepared to implement Serbia's Interim Agreement with the EU. But to date there has been no consensus among EU member states on this. Ratification of Serbia's Stabilisation and Association Agreement remains dependent on an assessment that Serbia is fully co-operating with the ICTY.

### Serbia: War Crimes

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Serbia's levels of cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in light of Chief Hague Prosecutor Serge Brammertz's report of 21 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [279699]

**David Miliband:** The Government share the assessment of Chief Prosecutor Senga Poranitz, as set out to the UN Security Council on 4 June 2009, and EU Foreign Ministers on 15 June 2009, that Serbia's level of co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has significantly improved in the last 12 months.

### Sri Lanka: International Monetary Fund

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the International Monetary Fund to suspend its support to the Government of Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [280298]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

The UK has not yet been asked to vote on a programme for Sri Lanka, as a programme has not been brought to the board for decision. At the time a programme is presented it will be assessed on its merits and the situation on the ground in Sri Lanka at the time to decide whether it will help the people of Sri Lanka. The Chancellor in his role as Governor to the IMF will make any final decision on UK support.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Animal Experiments

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the chemicals industry on minimising levels of animal testing in the development of new chemical products. [278113]

**Dan Norris:** My predecessor my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) had regular meetings with representatives of the chemicals industry and other interested stakeholders to discuss a wide range of subjects, including animal testing.

Regulation of chemicals in the EU is now co-ordinated through REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals). REACH has a clear aim to minimise the use of animal testing and includes the means to achieve that. It makes animal testing the option of last resort where there are no suitable non-animal alternative tests available, requires the mandatory sharing of all existing data on the intrinsic properties of chemicals derived from animal tests when completing registrations, and bans repetition of animal tests. In addition, industry has to provide a full justification if further animal tests are proposed to fill identified data gaps, and gain the approval of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) before such tests may be conducted. Test proposals are required to be published on ECHA's website for 45 days, to allow interested third parties to submit scientifically-valid comments.

### Central Science Laboratory: Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Central Science Laboratory office in each of the last five years. [279289]

**Dan Norris:** Central Science Laboratory (CSL) had only one main site, at Sand Hutton near York, during the period covered by the question. In addition, a number of staff were home-based or based at small outstations. Consequently, the following figures relate to all CSL staff.

*Central Science Laboratory staff headcount by classification, 2005-09*

| *Classification* | *2009* | *2008* | *2007* | *2006* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Director | [1]9 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Senior manager | 75 | 77 | 72 | 72 | 71 |
| Specialist/ delivery manager | 247 | 241 | 242 | 237 | 227 |
| Executive support/ admin | 73 | 76 | 79 | 82 | 74 |
| Other[2] | 302 | 280 | 302 | [3]755 | 299 |
| Total | 706 | 680 | 701 | [3]755 | 677 |

[1] Figures for directors in 2009 include three retiring as CSL directors on 31 March 2009 and the six new Fera directors.
[2] 'Other' category includes all staff not specifically covered by question who are involved in scientific support/delivery, e.g. fieldworkers, lab support, junior scientists.
[3] Large temporary increase in staff numbers due mainly to employment of approx 40 staff in support of badger research.
*Note:*
The figures in the table are as at 31 March each year.

### Dairy Farmers of Britain

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the collapse of Dairy Farmers of Britain on *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* English dairy farmers; [279826]

(2) whether he plans to bring forward measures to assist former suppliers of Dairy Farmers of Britain bring their milk to market. [279827]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Ministers and officials have been in discussion with senior dairy industry leaders. Officials remain in close contact with the receivers (PWC) to ensure minimal disruption throughout the dairy supply chain, including the effect on the sector as a whole.

### Dairy Farming

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of dairy farming in the UK; and what steps he is taking to ensure the long-term sustainability of the industry. [279829]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We are helping the dairy industry to help itself through the Dairy Supply Chain Forum, which provides a framework for constructive debate and information for industry to make informed decisions about their future. The Forum also aims to increase sector efficiency and promote the sustainable development.

We are also helping the industry to adjust as part of the on-going CAP Reform. One of the aims of the 2003 Reform was to see the end of price support mechanisms, which distort the market and give false signals to producers. We continue to press for further reform of the remaining aspects of the dairy price support mechanisms to make the sector internationally competitive.

### Departmental Furniture

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much each of his Department's agencies spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273792]

**Dan Norris:** From information held centrally, the core-Department's financial system records the following expenditure on furniture and all related services (fitting, movement, etc.) by three of DEFRA's Executive agencies for the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09:

| *Agency* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | £ *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Animal health | 622 | 283 | 757,768.56 |
| Marine and fisheries | 400 | 35 | 8,893 |
| Government decontamination service | 0 | 65 | 4,427 |

Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of *(a)* Marten Walsh Cherer Ltd, *(b)* Nicholls Investigation Services, *(c)* Shell UK Ltd, *(d)* the Royal Yachting Association, *(e)* The Focus Group Ltd, *(f)* the Trades Union Congress, *(g)* Way Out Creations Sdn Bhd, *(h)* Charles Matts, *(i)* Nia Wyn Jones, *(j)* Inova Furniture Contracts, *(k)* Gavin Scott; *(l)* Advance Seating Designs and *(m)* Dunster House in 2007-08; and what the purpose of the expenditure was in each case. [278992]

**Dan Norris:** The core Department's financial system records the following expenditure for the entities listed:

| *Organisation* | *Purpose* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Martin Walsh Cherer | Translation services | 4,630.93 |
| | Conferences and events Services | 1,125.12 |
| | Professional services: Consultancy | 2,802.49 |
| Nicholls Investigation Services | n/a | Nil |
| Shell UK Ltd | Vehicle Fuel and Oils; Vehicle Maintenance | 12,334.93 |
| The Royal Yachting Association | Environmental Action Fund | 145,598.00 |
| The Focus Group Ltd | Conferences and Events Services | 1,051.63 |
| The Trades Union Congress | Conferences and Events Services | 19,247.87 |
| Way Out Creations Sdn Bhd | Sustainable Development Programme | 4,499.00 |
| Charles Matts | Professional Services: Consultancy | 1,458.90 |
| Nia Wyn Jones | Professional Services: Consultancy | 1,244.38 |
| Inova Furniture Contracts | Furniture | 28,489.06 |
| Gavin Scott | Conferences and Events Services | 1,500.00 |
| Advance Seating Design | Furniture and Office Services | 1,187.32 |
| Dunster House | Waste Research | 280.50 |

## Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 701W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, for what reasons the Waste and Resources Action Programme has ceased subsidising compost bins. [279849]

**Dan Norris:** The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) stopped subsidising compost bins in England in April 2009 and will cease selling compost bins completely there at the end of September 2009. Notice has been given to all stakeholders of this change.

Since its inception in 2004, the programme has sold and distributed 1.8 million compost bins in England which are estimated to divert 250,000 tonnes of organic waste each year. The programme has therefore met its original objectives and demonstrated the value of home composting as part of a local waste strategy. It was appropriate at this stage for the issue of future subsidies to become one for local authorities rather than central Government to decide.

## Flood Control

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of buildings in high flood-risk areas which are not flood-resistant or resilient. [277401]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** No estimate has been made of the number of properties in high flood-risk areas that are not flood resistant or resilient. Investment by the Government over the last decade has led to a reduced risk of flooding for over 250,000 households in England.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the national flood emergency framework to be published. [280482]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** A fully developed National Flood Emergency Framework will be in place by June 2010, in line with the commitment given in response to Sir Michael Pitt's review on the 2007 floods. The framework will provide the basis for exercise watermark—our planned national exercise in March 2011.

## Plants

**Mrs. Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the role of ornamental plants in mitigating the effects of climate change. [279479]

**Dan Norris:** The Government have done no specific work to assess the role of ornamental plants in mitigating the effects of climate change. However, the growth of plants captures carbon dioxide (carbon sequestration), so giving some mitigation for other emissions. Assessments of carbon capture have been made for forestry and non-ornamental crops in the UK, since they represent the majority of the land use. The data available would allow a crude assessment of the potential for carbon sequestration by ornamentals.

More generally, ornamentals are a significant component of green infrastructure, which can reduce air temperatures in built up areas by up to 2° C. Some studies suggest that surface temperatures can be reduced to a much greater extent. Incorporating deciduous trees, including ornamental trees, into building design can also help to reduce solar gain in summer reducing energy usage associated with air conditioning, while maintaining solar gain in winter. Apart from the role of green infrastructure in reducing the urban heat island effect, the shade provided by ornamental trees will also play a role in reducing the incidence of skin cancers that is otherwise likely to increase as a result of projected reductions in cloud cover. Green infrastructure also has a role to play in sustainable urban drainage systems, helping to alleviate the projected increase in flood risk.

## Rural Areas: Broadband

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the provision of high-speed broadband access in rural areas. [279830]

**Dan Norris:** Broadband availability is vitally important for rural areas. DEFRA Ministers have been in contact with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to ensure that rural areas are taken into account in the development of the Digital Britain initiative which includes proposals for high speed next generation networks. DEFRA officials will continue to work closely with BIS on this matter.

### School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in the preparation of detailed implementing rules for an EU scheme for free fruit provision in schools; and if he will make a statement. [279748]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** EC Commission Regulation No. 288/2009, published on 7 April 2009, lays down implementing rules for the EU scheme for free fruit provision in schools.

### Total Horsemanship

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what purpose expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of Total Horsemanship Ltd in 2007-08. [278990]

**Dan Norris:** The core Department's financial system records expenditure of £240 on a two-day horsemanship clinic under the expenditure category of 'Learning and Development: Health and Safety Training' in 2007-08.

### Waste Management

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to Baroness Warsi of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WA177, on waste management, for what reasons a clarification of published policy was undertaken; and what account he took of rulings of the Local Government Ombudsman in his decision to amend section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. [279942]

**Dan Norris:** The reason for amending section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 was to provide a single point of reference in legislation for local authorities. As part of any decision-making process, the Secretary of State always takes account of relevant rulings of the Ombudsman.

### Water Companies: Renewable Energy

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment Ofwat has made of the level of investment in renewable energy infrastructure by water companies. [280365]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In water companies' draft business plan submissions to Ofwat there were significant investments related to renewable energy. Ofwat assessed the draft business plans and allowed a significant amount of renewable energy-related investment. This would lead to a 40 per cent. increase in the amount of renewable energy generated by the companies. Most of this increase comes from additional production of biogas from sludge treatment and a growth in combined heat and power (CHP) capacity.

Ofwat are currently reviewing the final business plan submissions from water companies. The outcome of their review will be made available on 23 July.

### Whales: Conservation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government is taking to secure a comprehensive ban on whaling by the Japanese Government; and if he will make a statement. [279085]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The UK Government will continue to make their opposition to whaling known to Japan at every appropriate opportunity and argue that they undermine the credibility of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) as an effective organisation for the conservation of whale stocks world-wide.

Unfortunately the right of any Contracting Government to the IWC to issue 'Special permits' and to conduct lethal research into whaling is enshrined in Article VIII of the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW).

At the next annual meeting of the IWC in June, 2009 (IWC61) the UK will once again call on Japan to cease its lethal whaling operations and engage in the non-lethal research of whales.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to answer Question 270193, tabled on 17 April 2009, on domestic waste recycling. [280337]

**Dan Norris:** The answer to Question 270193 appeared on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 89W. I apologise for the delay in replying.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Departmental Press

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the Prime Minister's private office; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279429]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and therefore the answer provided is for the whole of the Cabinet Office including the Prime Minister and his office.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 530W.

### Departmental Travel

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on tickets for *(a)* air and *(b)* rail travel for (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in her Department which were not used in each of the last three years. [280011]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost of having the Olympic grandstand in Hyde Park. [278773]

**Tessa Jowell:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic Games at existing venues. The direct costs associated with staging the events at existing venues come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. However these costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Members Staff: Contracts

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many hon. Members have not lodged the contracts of all their staff with the Department of Resources. [280459]

**Nick Harvey:** At the present time 256 individual contracts have yet to be lodged with the Department of Resources for staff working for 164 hon. Members.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Antisocial Behaviour

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish a summary of representations received by his Department from the public on measures to tackle anti-social behaviour in the last five years. [280260]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Between 1 May 2004 and 30 April 2009, we received over 3,000 letters and e-mails regarding antisocial behaviour. Representations that the Department has received on antisocial behaviour cover a wide range of nuisances and to provide a summary of these would entail disproportionate costs.

### Antisocial Behaviour: East of England

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will estimate the cost to the *(a)* economy and *(b)* public purse of anti-social behaviour in each local authority area in the East of England region in the latest period for which figures are available; [280227]

(2) how much has been spent by each local authority in the East of England region per head of population on tackling anti-social behaviour in each of the last five years. [280228]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** In 2003, the Home Office undertook a one-day count of antisocial behaviour incidents to quantify their impact on key service providers. This estimated that the cost to Government agencies of responding to reports of antisocial behaviour in England and Wales was approximately £3.4 billion per year. This figure did not include indirect costs to local communities and businesses, nor the emotional costs to victims and witnesses. The cost of not taking action against antisocial behaviour would be much higher.

Information on the amount spent by local authorities, including those in the eastern region, on tackling antisocial behaviour is not collected centrally. Home Office funding for local authorities to tackle antisocial behaviour now forms part of the general Area Based Grant (ABG) paid by the Department of Communities and Local Government. This grant is designed to increase the funding flexibility and allow local areas much greater freedom to spend money in a way they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas.

Other Home Office led activities also act to tackle antisocial behaviour, for example the introduction of community support officers in the eastern region, but a monetary value cannot be assigned to that contribution. Similarly, other programmes and services contribute, sometimes indirectly, to tackling antisocial behaviour, including diversionary activities for young people, neighbourhood wardens, as well as neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management.

### Antisocial Behaviour: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* anti social behaviour orders and *(b)* acceptable behaviour contracts have been issued in (i) Tameside and (ii) Stockport in the last 12 months; [279772]

(2) what steps are being taken to reduce levels of anti social behaviour in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport. [279773]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The latest available data on antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) cover the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2006. Between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2006, 225 ASBOs were issued at all courts in the Greater Manchester Criminal Justice System (CJS) area. Data on the number of ASBOs issued are not available below CJS area level.

The number of acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) is collected by the Home Office through a voluntary survey of crime and disorder reduction partnerships' (CDRPs) use of antisocial behaviour tools and powers. The latest data published indicate that over 30,000 ABCs have been made between October 2003 and September 2007, with over 5,150 issued in the north-west region during the same period. Currently, data on the number of ABCs issued are not available below regional level.

We have provided practitioners with a toolkit to tackle antisocial behaviour, which they operate according to local priorities and a practitioner website and advice line. Specifically in Tameside and Stockport, multidisciplinary antisocial behaviour teams operate many initiatives based on prevention and enforcement that engage, educate and promote awareness among young people, engage with residents and tackle antisocial behaviour in families. Stockport operates an antisocial behaviour hotline where members of the public can call and report antisocial behaviour. These cases are then allocated to one of the four ASB caseworkers to investigate and respond. Tameside were rated as an excellent four star authority by the Audit Commission's corporate assessment of the partnership's work around tackling antisocial behaviour.

**Closed Circuit Television: Greater Manchester**

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which towns in Greater Manchester operate closed circuit television for the purposes of crime prevention. [279859]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** This information is not held centrally.

**Departmental Data Protection**

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of security have been reported at the *(a)* Criminal Records Bureau, *(b)* Identity and Passport Service and *(c)* UK Border Agency and its predecessors in the last five years; and what procedures each agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data. [276952]

**Mr. Woolas:** Except in exceptional cases, where it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security. The Home Office and agencies take all breaches of security including unauthorised disclosure of personal data, very seriously. The Home Office and agencies have measures/policies in place to prevent misuse or abuse of official systems and to detect it where it does occur. Unauthorised disclosures of personal data are both a breach of security and a breach of the civil service code.

The Home Office and agencies are committed to investigating any such breaches and will deal with them in the strongest manner. Depending on the circumstances a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

**Departmental Written Questions**

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parliamentary questions for written answer his Department has declined to answer in substantive form on the ground of *(a)* disproportionate cost and *(b)* the information sought not being held centrally in each of the last five years. [280716]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer from my right hon. Friend, the former Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith), on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 729W.

**DNA: Databases**

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA samples recovered from crime scenes produced multiple matches when checked against the national DNA database in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [272719]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** A total of 1,004 DNA profiles taken from crime scenes and loaded to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) between 1 May 2008 and 30 April 2009 matched against more than one subject profile. This equates to an average of 83.7 multiple matches per month over this 12 month period.

The SGM Plus profiling system looks at 10 areas within the DNA molecule and derives from these a profile normally consisting of 20 numbers plus a sex marker indicating whether the person is male or female. With such a profile the likelihood of a random match to a person unconnected to the crime is a minimum of one in a billion.

Biological material found at a crime scene will degrade due to the effects of the environment, ultraviolet light, or bacteria, among other factors. There may be very little DNA in very small stains of biological material. In either case it may not be possible to produce a full DNA profile. In some cases, a partial profile may be produced by the analysis of the DNA and in some cases no DNA profile at all would be obtained. A partial profile consists of fewer than the 20 numbers of a full SGM+ DNA profile. A crime scene profile of eight numbers plus the sex marker would be sufficient to load to the DNA database.

Evidence from such a partial profile may still be crucial, not least because of its ability to conclusively eliminate people from an investigation. A match of a person to such a partial profile carries significantly less weight than a match to a full profile and it is quite possible that two or more people might have the same partial DNA profile. The evidence presented to a court will reflect this. The Crown Prosecution Service have made clear that in any case involving a DNA profile there must be appropriate supporting evidence before a prosecution is initiated.

**Driving Offences: Insurance**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on tackling the offence of driving without insurance in each of the last five years. [279594]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Enforcement of the offence is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police. They will decide on what allocation of their resources is appropriate.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of driving without insurance and one other or more offences in the last 12 months; and which were the five most common offences for which people were convicted together with driving without insurance during that period. [279595]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Data provided by the Ministry of Justice on the findings of guilt at all courts for vehicle insurance offences in England and Wales, in 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Information on the number of people convicted of a mixture of offences is not separately published.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Findings of guilt at all courts for vehicle insurance offences in England and Wales 2007*[1]

| *Offence type* | *Total findings of guilt* |
|---|---|
| *Vehicle insurance offences:* | |
| Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks | 232,811 |
| Making false statements or withholding material information | 272 |
| Other insurance offences (excluding fraud and forgery) | 16,015 |
| Sub-total | 249,098 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
OCJR E&A (Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit), Ministry of Justice

## Entry Clearances: Families

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many family visitor visa applications were received from people in each of the six countries from which most applications were received in each of the last seven years; and how many such visas were granted to people from each of those countries. [267569]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of family visit *(a)* visa applications and *(b)* visas issued, in each of the top six countries by volume of applications, in each of the last five calendar years, is shown in the following table. Reliable data for previous years are not held.

*Family visit visas*

| | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| *2004* | | |
| India | Applications | 91,939 |
| | Visas issued | 73,562 |
| Nigeria | Applications | 44,654 |
| | Visas issued | 26,104 |
| Pakistan | Applications | 37,375 |
| | Visas issued | 17,040 |
| Ghana | Applications | 24,794 |
| | Visas issued | 11,772 |
| Iran | Applications | 18,532 |
| | Visas issued | 13,589 |
| China | Applications | 14,461 |
| | Visas issued | 11,852 |
| Total applications 2004 | | 229,775 |
| Total visas issued 2004 | | 153,919 |
| *2005* | | |
| India | Applications | 110,697 |
| | Visas issued | 87,763 |
| Nigeria | Applications | 64,122 |
| | Visas issued | 35,415 |
| Pakistan | Applications | 63,561 |
| | Visas issued | 39,569 |
| Ghana | Applications | 18,965 |
| | Visas issued | 8,839 |
| Iran | Applications | 18,142 |
| | Visas issued | 14,461 |
| China | Applications | 16,788 |
| | Visas issued | 13,754 |
| Total applications 2005 | | 292,275 |
| Total visas issued 2005 | | 199,801 |
| *2006* | | |
| India | Applications | 120,373 |
| | Visas issued | 100,193 |
| Pakistan | Applications | 92,629 |
| | Visas issued | 62,208 |
| Nigeria | Applications | 63,972 |
| | Visas issued | 32,234 |
| China | Applications | 18,309 |
| | Visas issued | 17,071 |
| Iran | Applications | 18,295 |
| | Visas issued | 16,577 |
| Sri Lanka | Applications | 15,377 |
| | Visas issued | 12,766 |
| Total applications 2006 | | 328,955 |
| Total visas issued 2006 | | 241,051 |

*Family visit visas*

| | | Number |
|---|---|---|
| *2007* | | |
| India | Applications | 120,350 |
| | Visas issued | 97,116 |
| Pakistan | Applications | 81,141 |
| | Visas issued | 50,496 |
| Nigeria | Applications | 56,172 |
| | Visas issued | 32,791 |
| China | Applications | 20,779 |
| | Visas issued | 19,211 |
| Iran | Applications | 18,590 |
| | Visas issued | 15,304 |
| Bangladesh | Applications | 15,012 |
| | Visas issued | 8,998 |
| Total applications 2007 | | 312,044 |
| Total visas issued 2007 | | 223,916 |
| *2008* | | |
| India | Applications | 103,315 |
| | Visas issued | 88,376 |
| Pakistan | Applications | 65,486 |
| | Visas issued | 38,272 |
| Nigeria | Applications | 46,170 |
| | Visas issued | 27,618 |
| China | Applications | 20,845 |
| | Visas issued | 19,138 |
| Iran | Applications | 17,511 |
| | Visas issued | 13,399 |
| Sri Lanka | Applications | 12,829 |
| | Visas issued | 10,832 |
| Total applications 2008 | | 266,156 |
| Total visas issued 2008 | | 197,635 |

## Human Trafficking

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1227-28W, on human trafficking, how many of those foreign nationals convicted for human trafficking offences were deported on the completion of their sentence. [277238]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** To date there have been 106 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation, five for trafficking for forced labour and three for conspiracy to traffic. Of these convictions recorded by the UK Human Trafficking Centre 25 people have been deported with a further 35 having received recommendations for deportation at the end of their sentence.



## Illegal Immigrants

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were detained at their point of entry to the UK in each month of 2008; and how many were subsequently deported. [279623]

**Alan Johnson:** The following table outlines how many illegal entrants were detained at their point of entry to the UK and subsequently removed or deported, during each month of 2008.

| *Month* | *Total illegal entrants detained at port* | *Total removed* | *Total deported* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | | |
| January | 814 | 792 | 0 |
| February | 730 | 722 | 0 |
| March | 620 | 589 | 0 |
| April | 573 | 557 | 0 |
| May | 510 | 492 | 0 |
| June | 537 | 510 | [1]5 |
| July | 662 | 645 | 0 |
| August | 700 | 650 | 0 |
| September | 968 | 921 | 0 |
| October | 1,096 | 1,065 | 0 |
| November | 963 | 949 | 0 |
| December | 740 | 720 | 0 |
| Total | 8,913 | 8,612 | [1]5 |

[1] Total figure is no greater than five.

*Note:*
The data provided are based on locally-collated management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. It is provisional and may be subject to change.

## Immigration

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues to reduce levels of enforced migration to the UK, with particular reference to *(a)* human rights abuses and *(b)* levels of inequality in source countries. [253147]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have regular discussions with the Home Secretary about controlling immigration to the United Kingdom. The foreword to the UK Border Agency business plan for 2009-12 was signed jointly by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Financial Secretary to Her Majesty's Treasury, reflecting the cross cutting nature of the Government's work on immigration. I also meet regularly to discuss issues of joint interest, with Ministers from across Government, including with colleagues from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) which leads on global human rights and the Department for International Development which leads for the UK in the fight against global poverty.

Information on the Government's work in this area is published in the FCO's Annual Report on Human Rights which can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/pdf15/human-rights-2008

### Immobilisation of Vehicles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisation will be responsible for the preparation of the code of conduct for vehicle immobilisation companies; and what standards his Department expects to be included in the code. [280196]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* The Home Office issued a consultation document on the "Licensing of Vehicle Immobilisation Businesses" on 30 April 2009.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-vehicle-immobilisation/

The consultation closes on 23 July.

The Government's preferred option is the compulsory licensing of vehicle immobilisation businesses by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) which would require compliance with a compulsory code of practice.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the Home Office will draft the code of practice with input from the SIA. The code is likely to include industry-wide standards for:

a signage, including size and visibility;

maximum penalties charged and payment methods;

minimum time between immobilisation and removal;

providing evidence that a parking infringement has taken place;

security and location of pound where vehicles are impounded; and

complaints and appeals policy.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers his Department expects the Security Industry Authority to have in respect of vehicle immobilisation. [280197]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* The Home Office issued a consultation document on the "Licensing of Vehicle Immobilisation Businesses" on 30 April 2009.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-vehicle-immobilisation/

The consultation closes on 23 July.

The Government's preferred option is the compulsory licensing of vehicle immobilisation businesses by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). The details of the scheme will be decided after the consultation period has ended.

Under these proposals, the SIA would be the regulator with responsibility for approving applications from vehicle immobilisation businesses. The SIA would also have powers of enforcement, similar to those which they already have in relation to individual licences, including revocation or suspension of a licence, and prosecution.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter dated 5 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. A. Hamid. [263655]

**Alan Johnson:** My right hon. Friend the former Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith), wrote to my right hon. Friend on 20 April 2009.

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency's MPs' Parliamentary Business Unit plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's correspondence of 13 May 2009 on his constituent Mrs. Florence Kpakiwa. [279811]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Gentleman on 12 June 2009.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 29 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Florence Lolonyo Ami Kpodo. [280435]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 16 June 2009.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [279823]

**Mr. Hanson:** There are currently 47.6 Home Office staff or equivalents engaged full time on aspects of the development of and planning for the London 2012 Games. Roles are not specifically project based. Other staff in the Home Office and its agencies, such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency, are involved in Olympic-related projects as part of their wider duties as required.

There are currently 144.37 full-time equivalent staff from the Metropolitan Police and other police forces working on Olympic security. They are a mix of officers and civilians engaged in operational, project and programme roles which also involve both financial oversight and legacy planning.

Staffing numbers in the Home Office, its agencies and police forces will fluctuate according to the demands of the programme and are kept under constant review. The split of resources between these organisations may also change as a result of the formation of the Olympic Security Directorate in the Home Office involving the formal secondment of some staff from police forces and other agencies to the Home Office.

### Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many holders of student visas applied *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully for the right to remain in the UK in a category other than that of student in each of the last five years. [279318]

**Alan Johnson:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Personal Records: Data Protection

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Epping Forest of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 174W, on personal records: data protection, what the eight data fields of advance passenger information are that the e-Borders system will capture [279620]

**Alan Johnson:** The e-Borders system requires carriers to provide the data contained in the machine readable zone (MRZ) of a passport. The eight data fields are:

Name
Date of birth
Nationality
Gender
Travel document type
State of issue
Passport number
Passport expiry date.

This information has been checked at the UK border for many years, e-Borders allows this check to take place before travel into or out of the country.

### Police: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing schemes in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport. [279775]

**Mr. Hanson:** Neighbourhood policing provides high visibility, reassurance policing in all communities in England and Wales, including Tameside and Stockport, establishing local priorities with local people by engaging with the community on the issues which matter most to them. There are four neighbourhood policing teams in Thameside Division and four teams in Stockport Division.

HMIC has inspected every force in England and Wales to assess their capabilities in delivering Neighbourhood Policing and Developing Citizen Focus. HMIC's assessment is that all forces, including the Greater Manchester police who cover Tameside and Stockport, have met this standard.

### Travel Restrictions

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department has had with the US Administration on the creation of the list of foreign nationals barred from entry to the UK, with particular reference to the inclusion of Michael Savage on that list. [279576]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office did not consult the US Administration about the creation of the list of foreign nationals who are excluded from the United Kingdom on unacceptable behaviour grounds, which included US citizen, Michael Savage. However following publication of the list on 5 May, Home Office and FCO officials have discussed the Government's policy on exclusion with American officials.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Females: Protection

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what measures are in place to help women affected by the no recourse to public funds rule. [279098]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

Currently there is no statutory support available for women affected by the no recourse to public funds rule but the Government are working on a range of proposals which will be announced shortly.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279494]

**Mr. Woodward:** During the last 12 months, no representatives from think-tank Demos were present at any of the private meetings or public engagements Ministers attended.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260360]

**Mr. Woodward:** Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09 will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

## TREASURY

### Banks: Finance

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the expected exposure range for bad debt is in relation to the Asset Protection Scheme. [279978]

**Kitty Ussher:** As announced on 26 February, the Royal Bank of Scotland Group (RBS) agreed in principle to protect £325 billion of assets in the Asset Protection Scheme; and on 7 March Lloyds Banking Group (Lloyds) agreed in principle to protect £260 billion of assets in the scheme. After the deduction of the first loss (£42.2 billion and £35.2 billion respectively) that falls to the participating banks, the Treasury will guarantee 90 per cent. of the remaining value (at 31 December 2008) of the covered assets.

The Treasury and its advisers are continuing to work with participating banks to conduct due diligence on the assets intended for inclusion in the scheme.

Further detailed information will be provided after the final contracts are signed.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress has been made in the implementation of the Asset Protection Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [279979]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Treasury and its advisers are continuing to work with the participating banks to reach a final agreement on the terms and conditions of the Asset Protection Scheme (APS) and to conduct due diligence on the assets intended for inclusion in the scheme.

The Government are in the process of recruiting a chief executive to run the new agency, the Asset Protection Agency, at arms length from the day-to-day business of the Treasury, and administer the APS on the taxpayer's behalf.

Further detailed information will be provided after the final contracts are signed.

### Barnett Formula

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government plans to publish its factual paper on the Barnett formula. [280247]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* No decision has yet been made regarding the publication date of the factual paper on the Barnett Formula.

### Bradford and Bingley

**Mr. Meale:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date Ministers in his Department asked departmental officials to draft proposals to take the Bradford and Bingley Building Society into public ownership. [280083]

**Kitty Ussher:** I refer the Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) on 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 257W.

**Mr. Meale:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the decision to take the Bradford and Bingley Building Society into public ownership was taken. [280084]

**Kitty Ussher:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Wyre Forest (Dr. Taylor) on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 365W.

**Mr. Meale:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons his Department determined that *(a)* bonds held by the Government in Bradford and Bingley would be ranked above Bradford and Bingley subordinated bondholders for settlement and *(b)* bonds held by the Government in Northern Rock would be ranked below Northern Rock subordinated bondholders for settlement. [280085]

**Ian Pearson:** The position of the Treasury in respect of both banks reflects the normal credit hierarchy.

In the case of Bradford and Bingley, the Treasury and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) provided £18 billion of funding to enable all retail deposits held in the bank to be transferred to Abbey. Given that this funding replaced retail deposits, the rights of the Treasury and the FSCS in respect of the proceeds of the wind-down and the realisation of Bradford and Bingley's assets rank above subordinated creditors, in the same way that the rights of retail depositors would have been senior to subordinated creditors. The Treasury also has a claim on the proceeds of the wind-down as Bradford and Bingley's sole shareholder. This claim ranks below the claim of subordinated creditors, in the same way that it is usual for equity to rank below subordinated debt.

In Northern Rock's case, the position of the Treasury again reflects the normal credit hierarchy: the Government as senior creditor ranks above Northern Rock subordinated bondholders while as shareholder the Treasury ranks below such subordinated debt.

### Council Tax: Costs

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce the cost of administering council tax. [280409]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I have been asked to reply.

The cost of administering council tax is a matter for local billing authorities.

### Council Tax: Valuation

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 384W, on council tax: valuation, what types of property data are provided to the Valuation Office Agency by the Stamp Duty Office of HM Revenue and Customs. [279799]

**Mr. Timms:** The property data supplied by the Stamp Taxes Office to the Valuation Office Agency are all such data contained within the stamp duty land transaction return, which is online at:

http://search2.hmfc.gov.uk/kbroker/hmrc/forms/viewform.jsp?formId=932

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278828]

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days on average *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies has taken to pay invoices from suppliers in each month since November 2008. [278911]

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress his Department has made in ensuring that invoices for public sector contractors are paid within 10 days. [279981]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 10 June 2009]:* Since the Government's commitment announced in October 2008 to pay invoices within 10 days, the Treasury Group's performance against the target, including the number of invoices processed and the number of days taken to pay is shown in the following table.

*Treasury Group invoice payment performance November 2008 to May 2009*

| *Month*[1] | *Invoices paid within 10 working days* | *Percentage of invoices paid within 10 working days* | *Average working days to pay* |
|---|---|---|---|
| November 2008 | 854 | 88 | 10 |
| December 2008 | 883 | 93 | 6 |
| January 2009 | 796 | 89 | 7 |
| February 2009 | 893 | 95 | 6 |
| March 2009 | 1,117 | 93 | 6 |
| April 2009 | 801 | 87 | 8 |
| May 2009 | 686 | 87 | 9 |

[1] Payment performance for invoices received by Treasury Group organisations within each calendar month.

## Employment Tribunals Service

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277423]

**Kitty Ussher:** It is the Treasury's policy not to release data on staff where to do so could lead to the identification of individuals, including aggregated data relating to fewer than five staff members.

In each of the last three financial years there have been fewer than five industrial tribunal cases.

## EU Grants and Loans: Wales

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been received by the UK from the EU under the Objective One and Convergence Programmes Fund in respect of Wales in each year from 1999-2000. [280213]

**Mr. Byrne:** Receipts from the EU under the Objective One and Convergence Programmes Fund in respect of Wales are paid by the Commission to the Welsh Assembly Government. Programmes are agreed between the Commission and the Welsh Assembly Government.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of monies received from the EU as part of Objective One and Convergence Programme funding in Wales has been transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government in each year since 1999-2000. [280215]

**Mr. Byrne:** All monies received from the EU as part of the Objective One and Convergence Programme funding in Wales are paid by the Commission to the Welsh Assembly Government.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which departments have an agreement with his Department permitting the use in accounts of EU receipts to offset expenditure; and from what date each such agreement came into operation. [280407]

**Ian Pearson:** The Consolidated Budgeting Guidance sets out the budgeting treatment for receipts from the EU.

Para 3.52 states:

"Income from the EC may be netted off Resource Budget DEL if it is in support of DEL spending and if it supports current expenditure."

The Consolidated Budgeting Guidance can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consolidatedbudgeting_guidance200910.pdf

## Geographical Information Systems: Procurement

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which companies have been awarded the contracts under OGCbuying.solutions contract tender Reference RM 341, on geographic information services and solutions; and which public bodies are purchasing geographical information under the contracts. [279801]

**Ian Pearson:** Suppliers awarded contracts under OCGbuying.solutions contract tender references RM 341 Geographic Information Services and Solutions can be found at

http://www.buyingsolutions.gov.uk/frameworks/full.html?list_by=name&contract_search=GISS&search=search

The public bodies currently using the GISS framework to purchase GI services and data are:

*Lot 1: Geographic Information Solutions*

CEH Wallingford (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology)
Centre of Ecology and Hydrology
Cheshire Police Authority
Consumer Focus
Cumbria Constabulary
Department for Communities and Local Government
Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
Electoral Commission
English Heritage
Environment Agency
External Supply Group, DWP
Government Communications Planning Directorate
HM Revenue and Customs
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust
National Offender Management Service
NHS Connecting for Health
Office of Government Commerce
Renfrewshire Council
South Yorkshire Police Authority

*Lot 2: Map Making Services*

Ministry of Defence CinCFleet

*Lot 3: Data Capture, Analysis and Manipulations Services*

Animal Health
Department for Communities and Local Government

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
Environment Agency
HM Revenue and Customs
Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park
South Cambridgeshire District Council

### Government Departments: Capital Investment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proceeds from asset and property sales available to Departments for accounting in their capital budgets in the next five years. [279257]

**Mr. Byrne:** Estimates of central Government asset sales up to 2010-11 can be found in the 'Budget 2009: the economy and public finances—supplementary material', on table 2.3. This is available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_econfinances_968.pdf

The Operational Efficiency Programme reported at Budget 2009 on areas for potential future Government asset sales. The full report can be found at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/oep_final_report 210409_pu728.pdf

Estimates of proceeds available to Departments after 2011-12 will be provided at future fiscal events.

As set out in the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, the current budgeting framework is designed to ensure that most proceeds from fixed asset sales are made available to Departments. This is set out in sections 7.20 to 7.25 of the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consolidatedbudgeting_guidance200910.pdf

### Government Departments: Procurement

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made towards implementation of the recommendations in the May 2009 review Operational Efficiency Programme: collaborative procurement *(a)* to empower commercial directors in Government departments to agree targets for uptake of collaborative strategies for each non departmental public body and executive agency within their department, *(b)* for review groups to monitor the collaborative procurement performance of Government departments and *(c)* for Office of Government Commerce to (i) agree a Government eProcurement policy, (ii) expand the contracts database and (iii) perform an investment appraisal for a central eAuction Centre of Excellence. [279780]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* A supplementary report to the Operational Efficiency Programme Final Report, explaining how the collaborative procurement recommendations will be delivered, was published on 13 May 2009, and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/vfm_operational_efficiency.htm

Actions are under way to address all of the recommendations and progress will be published in the autumn pre-Budget report.

### Housing: Finance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the package for housing announced in the 2009 Budget is to be funded from *(a)* bringing forward budgets from future years, *(b)* the Consolidated Fund, *(c)* public borrowing and *(d)* other means. [272506]

**Ian Pearson:** The policy decisions made at the Budget are set out in Chapter A of the Budget document. The 2009 Budget announced a £500 million fund for England to stimulate housing development in the short-term and boost capacity in the house building industry in the long term. This includes £100 million in funding for local authorities to deliver new energy efficient social housing and £400 million to unlock currently stalled housing developments. The package is funded through additional borrowing none of which has been brought forward from future budgets.

### Housing: Valuation

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1006W, on the Valuation Office: South East, (1) if he will rank each individual locality reference in each valuation area in the East Midlands according to its value significance; [279882]

**Mr. Timms:** A list of locality reference numbers, ranked in order of value significance by valuation area within the Valuation Office Agency's West Midlands Group, has been placed in the Library. The list is based on data extracted between 27 February 2009 and 2 March 2009.

Information that identifies the extent and location of each locality, relative to the list of numbers that ranks each individual locality, is commercially confidential.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on council tax: valuation, if he will rank each individual locality reference in each valuation area in the West Midlands according to its value significance. [279883]

**Mr. Timms:** A list of locality reference numbers, ranked in order of value significance by valuation area within the Valuation Office Agency's West Midlands Group, has been placed in the Library. The list is based on data extracted between 27 February 2009 and 2 March 2009.

Information that identifies the extent and location of each locality, relative to the list of numbers that ranks each individual locality, is commercially confidential.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on council tax: valuation, what the average number of dwellings is in each locality group in England. [279884]

**Mr. Timms:** On 11 June 2009, the average number of dwellings per locality group in England was 5,809.

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many domestic property transaction records the HM Revenue and Customs Stamp Duty Office provided to the Valuation Office Agency in 2008-09. [280038]

**Mr. Timms:** The total number of transactions received from the Stamp Taxes Office between 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 was 979,510 of which approximately 90 per cent. (881,559) are domestic transactions.

### Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* proposals he has considered and *(b)* discussions he has had on amendment of the lower rate of income tax in the last nine months; and if he will make a statement. [279975]

**Mr. Timms:** Treasury Ministers and officials receive proposals and have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

### Local Government: Pensions

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme counts towards national public sector debt. [273600]

**Mr. Byrne:** Public sector net debt is compiled by the independent Office for National Statistics and is drawn from the National Accounts. It does not reflect any surplus or deficit in the individual funds constituting the Local Government Pension Scheme. Communities and Local Government publishes amalgamated Local Government Pension Scheme statistical data on their website and details can be found at the following address:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/pensions.htm

Details on the individual local government pension funds can be found at the following address:

http://www.cipfa.org.uk/panels/pensions/download/2007_LGPS_Valuation_Survey_Results.pdf

### Northern Rock

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent timetable is for repayment of loans advanced to Northern Rock. [279980]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government announced on 23 February of this year that in order to enable Northern Rock to undertake increased levels of new lending, the bank will be restructured so that the back book of mortgages is managed separately to its other business.

The Government also announced at the time that they will increase the loan to Northern Rock and extend the repayment schedule. The Government are continuing to work with Northern Rock to finalise the details of the restructuring, based on achieving maximum value for the taxpayer and with a view to creating a viable entity for sale at a later date. Further details will be published once a final plan has been agreed.

### Personal Income

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean gross household income was for a household comprising (i) two working age adults and two children, (ii) one working age adult and two children, (iii) one working age adult and one child, (iv) two working age adults and four children, (v) two working age adults and (vi) one working age adult in the latest 12 month period for which information is available. [278272]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the median and mean gross household income for the household types requested.

*Median and mean gross unequivalised household income (£ per week), for various household types, United Kingdom, 2007-08*

| | Gross unequivalised household income | |
|---|---|---|
| *Household type* | *Median* | *Mean* |
| Two working age adults and two children | 770 | 1,034 |
| One working age adult and two children | 329 | 384 |
| One working age adult and one child | 290 | 354 |
| Two working age adults and four children | 619 | n/a |
| Two working age adults, either with or without children | 740 | 939 |
| One working age adult, either with or without children | 330 | 429 |

n/a = Not available

*Notes:*

These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI), sourced from the Family Resources Survey.

Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

The reference period for HBAI figures is single financial years.

The income measure used here is unequivalised, i.e. it has not been adjusted for household size and composition. This is because the groups requested are based on household size and composition, and in this specific instance, equivalisation would cloud the comparison between household types. This means that the statistics presented are on a different basis to those in the HBAI publication.

Median household incomes are less affected by outliers, and are therefore generally more commonly used in analysis of incomes.

In particular, the sample size for households containing two working age adults and four children is relatively small, so estimates for this group are subject to a higher degree of sampling error than the other groups presented. This particularly affects the mean, where no robust estimate can be produced.

Gross incomes have been presented. The HBAI publication looks at net disposable incomes Before and After Housing Costs. While the statistics cover individuals who are of working age, not all individuals will be working.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, 2007-08

### Pregnant Women: Grants

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many health in pregnancy grants have been disbursed. [279211]

**Mr. Timms:** From its introduction on 6 April 2009 and up to 30 April, HM Revenue and Customs disbursed 80,000 Health in Pregnancy grants. Data after this date are not yet available.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in *(a)* current, *(b)* capital and *(c)* all public expenditure in real terms between 2011-12 to 2013-14. [279711]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* Over 2011-12 to 2013-14, public sector current expenditure (PSCE) is set to grow at an average of 0.7 per cent. a year in real terms, and public sector net investment (PSNI) will move to 1.25 per cent. of GDP by 2013-14.

### Public Expenditure: Wales

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what publication sets out the Government's budgeting rules for EU receipts in respect of Wales. [280205]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Government's budgeting rules regarding EU receipts in respect of Wales are set out in the Statement of Funding Policy published by the Treasury in October 2007.

### Public Finance

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the next long-term public finance report. [279255]

**Mr. Byrne:** As set out in Budget 2009, the next long-term public finance report will be published in 2009.

### Public Sector: Pensions

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1390-91W, on public sector pensions, what estimate he made of the cost to his Department of calculating a revised estimate of the potential net saving in employer costs for the pension schemes for the NHS, teachers and Civil Service over the 50-year period. [276661]

**Mr. Byrne:** Revised estimates of capitalised savings, such as were calculated in 2005 before scheme reforms were fully developed, are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The packages of reforms vary considerably between schemes, as will the effects on employer pension contributions and payments of pension benefits. Detailed questions about the financial effects are for the Departments responsible for the schemes.

### Regional Economic Council

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1046W, on the Regional Economic Council, what the name of each local government representative is. [279791]

**Ian Pearson:** Local authorities are represented at the Regional Economic Council by the Chair of the Local Government Association and by regional representatives nominated by the Local Government Association. These representatives are drawn from members of the LGA, but are selected in advance of each meeting. It is not, therefore, possible to list members' names.

### Revenue and Customs: Standards

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what target has been set in respect of the time taken by HM Revenue and Customs to process a claim for *(a)* a National Insurance contribution refund, *(b)* an inheritance tax refund and *(c)* a capital gains tax refund; and what the (i) average and (ii) maximum time taken to process such a claim was in the latest period for which figures are available. [278868]

**Mr. Timms:** Both national insurance contribution refunds and inheritance tax repayments are processed in line with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) departmental objective 2, i.e. 80 per cent. of cases to be cleared within 15 working days and 95 per cent. to be cleared within 40 working days. These targets were met in 2008-09.

All repayments due for capital gains tax are made under the self-assessment system. Refunds made from online self-assessment returns are normally made within seven days. For paper returns HMRC identify returns on receipt marked 'repayment' and process these as priority. HMRC seek to strike a balance between issuing repayments as quickly as possible for the benefit of customers and ensuring Exchequer protection.

### Valuation Office: Northern Ireland Land and Property Services

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1049W, on the Valuation Office: Northern Ireland Land and Property Services, if he will place in the Library a copy of minutes of the *(a)* 47th, *(b)* 48th and *(c)* 49th meetings. [279796]

**Mr. Timms:** A copy of the minutes of the 49th meeting of the Steering Committee on Harmonisation (Practice and Procedure) England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland will be placed in the Library.

For the minutes of the 47th and 48th meetings I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1369-70W.

### Valuation Office: Video Recordings

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency has produced any video films under its e-learning programme relating to council tax valuations. [279900]

**Mr. Timms:** No.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit awards were modified or changed in-year from their original calculation in 2007-08. [279733]

**Mr. Timms:** The specific information requested is available only at disproportionate cost. However, HM Revenue and Customs processed more than 14 million items as change of circumstances between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008. The changes may not necessarily have led to a change in the calculation of a tax credit

award, while some awards may have changed more than once. This figure includes the processing of change of circumstances notifications and changes made following some IT upgrades.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the mandated target for bottled water holdings is held in Afghanistan. [279946]

**Bill Rammell:** The volume of bottled water currently held in Afghanistan as at 11 June 2009 is 110 per cent. of the minimum mandated stock holding.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents of *(a)* theft and *(b)* vandalism have been reported in relation to British military supplies during transit from the port of debarkation in Pakistan to the final destination in Afghanistan in each month in 2009 to date. [279961]

**Bill Rammell:** There have been no incidents of theft or vandalism reported on British military supplies during transit from the port of debarkation in Pakistan to the final destination in Afghanistan during 2009.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Pakistani military personnel are *(a)* assigned, *(b)* attached and *(c)* embedded with UK military forces in Regional Command South. [279962]

**Bill Rammell:** There are currently no personnel from the Pakistani armed forces assigned, attached or embedded with UK armed forces in Regional Command (South).

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements there are for the training of RAF pilots in air-to-air refuelling techniques before Tornado GR4s deploy to Afghanistan. [280000]

**Bill Rammell:** All RAF crews deploying on Op Herrick are fully combat ready. Combat-ready aircrew training for the Tornado GR4 includes full training for air-to-air refuelling.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 828W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what his estimate is of the number of troops likely to be required by Regional Command South in October 2009. [280077]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Troop levels within Regional Command (South) are a matter for ISAF.

### Air Force: Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow rate was of RAF pilot crew for each aircraft type in the most recent period for which figures are available. [279957]

**Bill Rammell:** The following table shows intakes and outflows of RAF pilots (three year average to FY2007-08).

*Intake*

| *Aircraft type* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Fast Jet | 40 |
| Rotary Wing | 50 |
| Multi Engine | 40 |
| Total | 130 |

Intakes are Into Productive Service flows, personnel flowing from untrained to trained strength.

*Outflow*

| *Aircraft type* | *Outflow* | *Percentage rate* |
|---|---|---|
| Fast Jet | 60 | 7 |
| Rotary Wing | 40 | 6 |
| Multi Engine | 70 | 9 |
| Total | 160 | 8 |

Outflows are of all pilots, including ranks of Wing Commander and above who are classified as belonging to the General Duties branch, and therefore not all will be flying aircraft when they leave the service.

Rates are a percentage of average trained strength as at 1 April for relevant three years.

### Air Force: Military Aircraft

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cannibalisations of each type of RAF aircraft there have been in *(a)* each year since 2005 and *(b)* the last 12 months. [279952]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The information requested covers a large number of aircraft and will take some time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete.

### Armed Forces: Foreigners

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost of making retrospective wage payments to *(a)* Commonwealth soldiers and *(b)* soldiers of other nationalities who served in the British armed forces between 1947 and 2004 to make their earnings equivalent to those of UK service people. [280272]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** All non-British personnel now serving in the British armed forces have exactly the same pay arrangements as UK personnel and there are currently no plans to undertake a retrospective review. It has long been the policy of successive Governments not to implement changes to pay policy retrospectively, a policy that has been applied across the public sector in the United Kingdom. Accordingly, no estimate has been made of the cost of retrospective treatment in either case, and to do so would involve disproportionate cost. Additionally, pay records are kept for seven years before destruction, so individual cases could not be assessed beyond the last seven years. Given the number of personnel involved the costs would be significant.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on upgrading accommodation for serving personnel and their families in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland since 2000. [274599]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I will write to the right hon. and learned Member with the information requested because it is not held centrally and will take more time to collate and verify.

*Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Menzies Campbell:*

In my answer of 12 May 2009 (Official Report: Column 432W) I promised to provide you with details on how much has been spent on upgrading accommodation for serving personnel and their families in the UK and Scotland since 2000.

The following was spent upgrading Service Family Accommodation (SFA) in Great Britain (GB) in each financial year since 2001-02, the latest year for which figures are available.

| *FY* | *GB (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 25.3 |
| 2002-03 | 25.5 |
| 2003-04 | 35.5 |
| 2004-05 | 18.1 |
| 2005-06 | 32.4 |
| 2006-07 | 16.4 |
| 2007-08 | 16.9 |
| 2008-09 | 35.5 |

Of which, the following was spent upgrading SFA in Scotland:

| *FY* | *Scotland (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 3.7 |
| 2002-03 | 0.3 |
| 2003-04 | 0.2 |
| 2004-05 | 0.2 |
| 2005-06 | 3.1 |
| 2006-07 | 3.4 |
| 2007-08 | 1.0 |

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of each armoured vehicle type is *(a)* fit for operations, *(b)* in limited role, *(c)* awaiting spares and *(d)* not operational for other reasons. [279947]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of vehicles of each type in the armoured vehicle fleet has been cannibalised in each of the last 12 months; [279953]

(2) how many vehicles of each type in the armoured vehicle fleet have been cannibalised in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* four years. [279954]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I refer the hon. Member to the answer the right hon. Member for Coventry, North-East (Mr. Ainsworth) gave him on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 33W.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many urgent operational requirement armoured vehicles of each type have been *(a)* ordered since July 2006 and *(b)* delivered to UK Land Command. [279956]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** 1,124 Urgent Operational Requirement armoured vehicles have been ordered since July 2006. As at 12 June 2009, 444 had been delivered to UK Land Forces. The breakdown by type is as follows:

| *Vehicle* | *Ordered since July 2006* | *Delivered to UK Land Forces* |
|---|---|---|
| Warthog | 115 | 0 |
| Talisman Mastiff 2 | 24 | 0 |
| Talisman Buffalo | 14 | 0 |
| Talisman high mobility excavator (HMEE) | 13 | 4 |
| Ridgback | 157 | 57 |
| Mastiff | 274 | 190 |
| Vector[1] | 138 | 178 |
| Wolfound | 97 | 0 |
| Husky | 262 | 0 |
| Cougar | 30 | 15 |
| Total | 1,124 | 444 |

[1] Vector -138 vehicles have been ordered since July 2006; In addition to this figure 60 were ordered in June 2006, and these are reflected in the delivery column.

### Army: Defence Equipment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Army's latest Total Fleet Requirement document. [279959]

**Bill Rammell:** A copy of the latest Army Total Fleet Requirement, from 2006, was placed in the Library of the House in January 2008. This remains the extant version.

### Ex-servicemen: Suicide

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will commission further research on *(a)* the incidence of suicide among former service personnel and *(b)* the merits of psychological autopsies in cases of suicide among such personnel. [278836]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Department has no plans at present to commission research into the incidence of suicide among veterans, including psychological autopsies.

We do however take a close interest in the health of those leaving the services. In 2003, the Department commissioned Kings College, London, to undertake a study of the health outcomes for some 20,000 personnel deployed to Iraq or in a non-deployed comparator group. This includes analysis of mental health outcomes which so far shows that generally there is not a higher incidence of mental health problems among those deployed. We will continue to monitor carefully the research, which has now been extended to cover in addition personnel deployed to Afghanistan. In addition, scrutiny of international peer reviewed literature takes place when it is published.

### Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* freight and *(b)* passenger capacity is of (i) the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft and (ii) each commercial air-to-air service provider. [280002]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft was selected in competition and uses a fleet of modified Airbus A330 aircraft to achieve the technical and military capability requirements.

The freight capacity is 43 tonnes, or 136 cubic metres. The passenger capacity is 291.

There are no commercial air-to-air service providers with approval to operate on the UK civil or military aircraft registers with which to make a comparison.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the fuel off-load capacity is of *(a)* the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft and *(b)* each commercial air-to-air service provider. [280060]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) is required to deliver a capability measured through operational analysis against war fighting scenarios. The capacity of the individual aircraft is therefore of secondary importance to its capability, and the fleet has been sized to meet the operational requirement. No direct comparison can be made with another aircraft. Additionally, there are no commercial air-to-air service providers with approval to operate on the UK civil or military aircraft registers.

The maximum fuel capacity is 111 tonnes. The fuel offload capacity is related to the radius of action, aircraft fuel consumption and the time on station at the refuelling location. For FSTA this fuel capacity relates to a standard sortie scenario of 500 miles radius of action, 140 minutes on station and a fuel offload of 60 tonnes to 20 different receiver aircraft.

### Military Aircraft

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what trials his Department has undertaken with commercial air-to-air refuelling service providers in the last three years; and what assessment he has made of the results of those trials. [280001]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Ministry of Defence has undertaken no trials with private sector air to air refuelling service providers in the last three years. A commercial service has been used by the RAF in the US, under extant bilateral arrangements with the US Military but this was not a formal trial.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the airworthiness of the *(a)* TriStar and *(b)* VC10 fleets. [280066]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** RAF TriStar and VC10 aircraft are designed and certified to strict airworthiness and safety standards. The structural integrity of the aircraft is maintained by adherence to the procedures detailed within military airworthiness regulations. The review of airworthiness and safety of the aircraft is a routine and continual activity. It includes a comprehensive maintenance and repair process that covers routine flight servicing before and after each flight.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters are in service in the armed forces; and what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual number of each type of helicopter fit for purpose is. [279950]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** "In Service" has been taken to mean the effective fleet which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal.

"Fit for Purpose" aircraft are those in the forward fleet ie available to Front Line Commands for operational and training purposes (including those that are classed as "short term unserviceable") that are considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date.

The number of helicopters "Fit for Purpose" varies from day to day due, primarily, to routine maintenance requirements. Therefore, the figures in the table are averages for May 2009:

| *Helicopter type/ mark* | *In-Service[1] (effective fleet)* | *Fit for Purpose— target* | *Fit for Purpose— actual[2]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Augusta 109 | 4 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Apache | 67 | 18.1 | 14.0 |
| Chinook Mk2/2a | 40 | 19.0 | 18.4 |
| Gazelle | 42 | 15.4 | 20.1 |
| Lynx Mk3/ Mk8 | 61 | 26 | 26.4 |
| Lynx Mk7/9 | 94 | 35.0 | 23.0 |
| Merlin Mk1 | 42 | 20 | 14.1 |
| Merlin Mk3/ Mk3a | 28 | 12.4 | 10.7 |
| Puma | 34 | 17.5 | 15.9 |
| Sea King Mk3/3a | 25 | 17 | 10 |
| Sea King Mk4/6 | 42 | 18.0 | 16.2 |
| Sea King Mk5 | 15 | 7.5 | 7.4 |
| Sea King Mk7 | 13 | 6.5 | 5.9 |

[1] As at 1 June 2009
[2] Averages for May 2009

Operational capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available. All rotary wing operational requirements are currently being met.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the replacement of the Royal Navy's fleet of Lynx helicopter at the end of its service life. [280087]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Wildcat will replace the current Army and Royal Navy Lynx helicopter fleets from 2014 and 2015 respectively.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value is of his Department's contract for the upgrade of Puma helicopters; and if he will make a statement. [280088]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** No contract for the upgrade of the Puma helicopters has been placed.

### Military Bases

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated *(a)* market value and *(b)* area is of (i) DCSA Inskip, Preston, (ii) RAF Church Fenton, Tadcaster, (iii) RAF Syerston, (iv) RAF Watton, (v) TAC Worcester, (vi) Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot, (vii) Aldershot Garrison, (viii) RAF High Wycombe,

(ix) HMS Daedalus, Gosport and Fareham, (x) Anzio Barracks, Leek, (xi) HMS Forest Moor, Harrogate, (xii) RAF West Raynham, (xiii) RAF Newton, (xiv) RAF Alconbury, (xv) RAF Halton, Wendover, (xvi) RAF Brize Norton, Bicester, (xvii) DMC Dean Hill, West Dean, (xviii) RAF Chilmark, Salisbury, (xix) Connaught Barracks and (xx) Roussillon Barracks; and which of these sites is (A) redundant (B) expected to become redundant. [280444]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The potential market value of sites is usually only assessed when they become surplus. However, it is our practice not to release the estimated sale value of surplus sites as to do so might influence the market.

The MOD's long-term Defence Estate Development Plan (DEDP), which can be found on the MOD internet at

http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk/publications/dedp08.php,

classifies the Department's sites in three categories; core, retained, or disposal estate.

The other requested information for the sites listed is as follows:

| *Site name* | *Surplus to defence requirements (yes/no/ part)* | *Expected to become surplus to defence requirements (yes/no) and estimated date if known* | *Estimated disposal area (hectares)* | *Comment* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DCSA Inskip | No | No | — | — |
| RAF Church Fenton | Part | — | 13 | Technical site for disposal (13.45 ha) |
| RAF Syerston | No | No | — | — |
| RAF Watton | Sold in part 1998 | — | — | Technical areas sold airfield retained for Training purposes |
| TAC Worcester | No | — | 0.15 | Site will be sold to facilitate town centre redevelopment, subject to reprovision |
| Vauxhall Barracks | No | tbc | 10 | — |
| Aldershot Garrison | Part | — | 163 | 50 per cent. for disposal at present (Aldershot Urban extension) to be followed by further tranche in about 3 years |
| RAF High Wycombe | No | No | — | — |
| HMS Daedalus | Sold 2005 | — | — | — |
| Anzio Barracks | Sold 2006 | — | — | — |
| HMS Forest Moor | Part | — | 8 | Admin area for disposal |
| RAF West Raynham | Sold 2006 | — | — | — |
| RAF Newton | Yes | — | 136 | Technical area sold 2005. Airfield surplus and subject to sale to Crown Estate |
| RAF Alconbury | Part | — | 414 | Technical areas occupied by USVF. Airfield held via Joint Venture for future disposal and development |
| RAF Halton | Part | — | 1 | Former Officers' Mess for disposal |
| RAF Brize Norton | No | No | — | — |
| DMC Dean Hill | Part | — | 15 | Majority sold- two areas available (13 ha and 2 ha) |
| RAF Chilmark | Yes | — | 27 | Balance of site for disposal |
| Connaught Barracks | Sold 2007 | — | 24 | Sold to HCA |
| Rousillon Barracks | Sold 2007 | Yes-tbc | 0.7 | Majority sold to HCA—but further tranche awaited. |

## Nigeria: Military Aid

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the UK provides military aid to Nigeria. [279778]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK has provided military aid to Nigeria since UK/Nigeria Bilateral Defence Relations were re-established in 2001. MOD engagement with Nigeria is restricted to advice and support, implemented through a small team comprising our defence adviser; a British military advisory and training team; and a liaison officer to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Secretariat.

Following a meeting between my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Yar'Adua in July 2008, we have developed a focussed package of training assistance to the Nigerian armed forces to improve management of military operations and effective in-shore small boat patrolling in the Niger Delta. To take this forward the MOD is supporting the development of a Joint Maritime Security Training Centre at a military site close to Lagos. A range of courses are being offered to individuals, units and HQs, leading to a common doctrine with a strong theme throughout of respect for the rule of law and human rights.

## Nimrod Aircraft

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Nimrod MRA4 aircraft his Department plans to procure in the next three years. [279937]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** We currently have a contract to procure nine Nimrod MRA4 aircraft in the next three years.

## Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much liquid radioactive waste has been discharged into the sea loch at Faslane in each year since it first hosted Polaris nuclear submarines; and whether he has received recent representations from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency on the matter. [272723]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Officials are currently in the process of collating the information held by the Department; I will write to the hon. Member once this work is complete.

*Substantive answer from Quentin Davies to Dai Davies:*

In my answer of 12 May 2009 to your Question (Official Report: Column 753W), I undertook to write to you regarding how much liquid radioactive waste has been discharged into the sea loch at Faslane in each year since it first hosted Polaris.

Resolution Class submarines, which carried Polaris, operated out of Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde at Faslane from 1967. Information regarding liquid discharges for the period 1967-76 is not held. The information relating to liquid radioactive waste discharged into the sea loch at Faslane since 1977 is provided at Annex A.

It may be helpful if I put this information into context. Between 1967-93 the discharge level set by Her Majesty's Industrial Pollution Inspectorate was a total radioactivity limit of 37 Gigabecquerels (GBq), excluding tritium. Since 1994 the agreement with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has included tritium and has required the information to be broken out into the different nuclide groups. The liquid radioactive discharge limits since 1994 are as follows:

Alpha Activity: 0.200 GBq

Beta Activity: 0.500 GBq

Cobalt-60: 0.500 GBq

Tritium: 1000.000 GBq

As you can see from the figures, the total liquid radioactive discharges into the sea at Faslane have not exceeded the limits set by the regulatory authorities, and in all cases are significantly below the limits; I can confirm that SEPA have not made any recent representations on the matter.

I hope this information is useful.

*Annex A*

*Table 1: Liquid radioactive waste discharged during 1977-1993 under agreement with Her Majesty's Industrial Pollution Inspectorate*

| Year | Radioactivity | Discharges in GBq |
|---|---|---|
| 1993 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.055 |
| 1992 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.037 |
| 1991 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.110 |
| 1990 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.084 |
| 1989 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.032 |
| 1988 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.030 |
| 1987 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.046 |
| 1986 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.085 |
| 1985 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.046 |
| 1984 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.240 |
| 1983 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.110 |
| 1982 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.055 |
| 1981 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.040 |
| 1980 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.211 |
| 1979 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.012 |
| 1978 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.016 |
| 1977 | Total Activity (excluding tritium) | 0.100 |

*Table 2: Liquid radioactive waste discharged during 1994-2008 under agreement with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency*

| Year | Radioactivity | Discharges in GBq |
|---|---|---|
| 2008 | Alpha | 0.000 |
| 2008 | Beta Activity | 0.019 |
| 2008 | Colbalt-60 | 0.005 |
| 2008 | Tritium | 72.830 |
| 2007 | Alpha | 0.000 |
| 2007 | Beta Activity | 0.013 |
| 2007 | Colbalt-60 | 0.003 |
| 2007 | Tritium | 66.400 |
| 2006 | Alpha | 0.001 |
| 2006 | Beta Activity | 0.006 |
| 2006 | Colbalt-60 | 0.003 |
| 2006 | Tritium | 121.000 |
| 2005 | Alpha | 0.002 |
| 2005 | Beta Activity | 0.013 |
| 2005 | Colbalt-60 | 0.003 |
| 2005 | Tritium | 115.000 |
| 2004 | Alpha | 0.002 |
| 2004 | Beta Activity | 0.005 |
| 2004 | Colbalt-60 | 0.007 |
| 2004 | Tritium | 47.900 |
| 2003 | Alpha | 0.015 |
| 2003 | Beta Activity | 0.003 |
| 2003 | Colbalt-60 | 0.008 |
| 2003 | Tritium | 93.700 |
| 2002 | Alpha | 0.002 |
| 2002 | Beta Activity | 0.035 |
| 2002 | Colbalt-60 | 0.009 |
| 2002 | Tritium | 78.156 |
| 2001 | Alpha | 0.002 |
| 2001 | Beta Activity | 0.001 |
| 2001 | Colbalt-60 | 0.030 |
| 2001 | Tritium | 39.710 |
| 2000 | Alpha | 0.002 |
| 2000 | Beta Activity | 0.008 |
| 2000 | Colbalt-60 | 0.010 |
| 2000 | Tritium | 64.000 |
| 1999 | Alpha | 0.002 |
| 1999 | Beta Activity | 0.010 |
| 1999 | Colbalt-60 | 0.004 |
| 1999 | Tritium | 69.400 |
| 1998 | Alpha | 0.008 |
| 1998 | Beta Activity | 0.020 |
| 1998 | Colbalt-60 | 0.022 |
| 1998 | Tritium | 42.500 |
| 1997 | Alpha | 0.017 |

*Table 2: Liquid radioactive waste discharged during 1994-2008 under agreement with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency*

| Year | Radioactivity | Discharges in GBq |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | Beta Activity | 0.008 |
| 1997 | Colbalt-60 | 0.055 |
| 1997 | Tritium | 72.800 |
| 1996 | Alpha | 0.018 |
| 1996 | Beta Activity | 0.178 |
| 1996 | Colbalt-60 | 0.087 |
| 1996 | Tritium | 198.000 |
| 1995 | Alpha | 0.014 |
| 1995 | Beta Activity | 0.311 |
| 1995 | Colbalt-60 | 0.203 |
| 1995 | Tritium | 93.900 |
| 1994 | Alpha | 0.019 |
| 1994 | Beta Activity | 0.115 |
| 1994 | Colbalt-60 | 0.064 |
| 1994 | Tritium | 113.000 |

*Note*:
Figures have been rounded to three decimal places.

### RAF St. Athan

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether construction work has been started at St. Athan military academy; when the work is expected to be completed; and how much *(a)* has been spent and *(b)* is planned to be spent on the project in each year of the project. [280162]

**Bill Rammell:** Construction at the St. Athan site is expected to begin shortly after contract award for the Defence Training College, which is anticipated to be signed in the summer of 2010. However, some site clearance and demolition work is expected to take place to prepare the site before contract signature. The construction of the Defence Training College is expected to be completed by 2014.

Estimated construction costs for the first five years of the contract are provided in the following table.

| | Cost (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 112.5 |
| 2011-12 | 200.7 |
| 2012-13 | 265 |
| 2013-14 | 156.1 |
| 2014-15 | 37.8 |

### Weapons: Lost Property

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many weapons of each type have *(a)* been stolen and *(b)* gone missing from armed forces bases in each year from 1997 to 2004. [280292]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1244W, by my hon. Friend the Minister for Veterans (Mr. Touhig) to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts: Apprentices

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many apprenticeships in the creative industries have been taken up since his Department's publication of its Creative Britain document. [279531]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* Since the publication of Creative Britain, 400 apprenticeships have started on frameworks associated with the creative industries. These include the Creative Apprenticeships and the Quality Assurance Games Testing.

This figure does not include apprentices working in the creative industries on non-creative apprenticeships. The National Apprenticeship Service will be able to calculate this information from September.

### Gambling: Internet

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will refer the matter of the establishment of a sports right for online betting operators to the new expert panel on sports betting. [280145]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The expert panel on sports betting will be established very soon and I will announce the chair and members shortly. The panel's terms of reference will examine all practical measures to further the overall objective of reducing the risk of corruption in British sport and will include a number of areas that I want them to focus on specifically. It is up to the chair, in discussion with the panel members, to decide on the other areas to examine.

I have also been clear that the issue of integrity should not necessarily be linked to any proposed sports right. Therefore I have not referred this for the panel's consideration at this stage.

### Leisure Facilities: Finance

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial assistance his Department has provided for the redevelopment of leisure centres in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [280271]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Sport England has advised that it does not hold information on financial assistance given to individual leisure centres in each local authority area covering the last three years because it does not categorise data in this way. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Local Broadcasting: Radio

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* economic viability and *(b)* social contribution of local radio. [279293]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* Following the Interim Digital Britain Report, my Department commissioned an independent review of the localness regime which regulates local content on radio. This

review also considered the current economic viability and social contribution of local radio. The report undertaken by John Myers, "An Independent Review of the Rules Governing Local Content on Local Radio" is available on my Department's website

www.culture.gov.uk.

### Olympic Games 2012: Football

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of the likely effect on *(a)* women's and *(b)* disabled people's football of fielding a football Team GB at the London 2012 Olympics. [276099]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The fielding of women's and Paralympic GB football teams would provide a unique opportunity to showcase and strengthen the women's and disabled games, from the grass roots through to the elite.

As the host nation, a women's and a disabled team would automatically qualify. The Government would like to see the best possible teams taking part to provide Team GB with every opportunity to achieve the ambitious medal targets for the Paralympic and Olympic games in 2012, and to provide inspiration to the next generation of those taking part in women's and disabled football.

### Sports: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding he plans to provide for sport in Denton and Reddish constituency in 2009-10. [279771]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department has allocated Sport England £135.7 million of Exchequer funding in 2009-10. Sport England has targets to get one million people doing more sport by 2012-13, and to make a major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people. Denton and Reddish constituency will benefit, alongside every area of England, from Exchequer and Lottery investment by Sport England in 2009-10 in support of these targets.

In addition, Sport England have advised that the following initiatives support participation in sport in Denton and Reddish constituency.

*(i) Free Swimming*

Stockport Metropolitan borough council has signed up to Pot 1 of the free swimming programme, free swimming for the over-60s, and has been awarded £88,472 in this regard.

Tameside Metropolitan borough council has also signed up to Pot 1 and has been awarded £60,929.

*(ii) Sport Unlimited*

Sport Unlimited is an integral part of the Government's PE and Sport Strategy for Young People. The overall aim of Sport Unlimited is to increase opportunities for Children and Young People aged five to 19 to participate regularly in sport.

This project is in its second year (2009-10) of delivery. In Denton and Reddish approximately £8,750 will be put into Sport Unlimited activities during 2009-10.

### Sports: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding he plans to provide for sport in Milton Keynes in 2009-10. [280346]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department has allocated Sport England £135.7 million of Exchequer funding in 2009-10. Sport England has targets to get one million people doing more sport by 2012-13, and to make a major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people. Milton Keynes will benefit, alongside every area of England, from Exchequer and Lottery investment by Sport England in 2009-10 in support of these targets.

In addition Sport England have advised that there are a number of initiatives to support participation in sport in Milton Keynes:

*(i) Free swimming*

Milton Keynes unitary authority has opted in to the U16 and Over 60 Free Swimming Programme and has received £196,525 (£46,740 for pot 1 and £149,785 for pot 2) in this regard. The local authorities that have opted to offer the scheme to both age groups have also received a share of a £10 million capital fund to spend on modernising or improving pool provision. Milton Keynes received £68,116.

Those local authorities that will offer free swimming to both age groups also stand to benefit from a further £25 million capital challenge fund in both 2008-09 and 2010-11 to spend on improving pool facilities. Milton Keynes has been awarded:

£180,000 towards the modernisation of Middleton Pool;

£60,985 towards the modernisation of Wroughton Leisure Centre; and

£200,000 towards the Stantonbury Campus Pool Modernisation Project.

*(ii) Sport Unlimited*

Sport Unlimited is an integral part of the Government's PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP). The overall aim of Sport Unlimited is to increase opportunities for Children and Young People aged five to 19 to participate regularly in sport.

In Milton Keynes, approximately £38,464 is currently assigned this financial year to deliver projects across the city.

*(iii) Step into Sport*

Step into Sport focuses on young people aged 14 to 19, giving them opportunities to become involved in sports leadership and volunteering and encouraging them to continue this into later life.

The programme is funded by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport as part of the PESSYP strategy, which is revitalising PE and school sport across the country. Step into Sport in Milton Keynes has been awarded £5,500.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of an increase in EU carbon reduction targets. [265835]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The levels of the first three carbon budgets, covering 2008-12, 2013-17 and 2018-22, were approved by Parliament in May. These require a reduction in UK greenhouse gas emissions by over 22, 28 and 34 per cent. against 1990 levels respectively. The budgets have been set in line with the independent Committee on Climate Change's advice and with our emissions reduction targets under the EU 2020 Climate and Energy package.

In the summer, the Government will present a Climate and Energy Strategy to Parliament, which will set out our proposals and policies to meet the carbon budgets, in the context of our overall programme for delivering secure low-carbon energy, transport and housing.

The EU has committed to a 20 per cent. greenhouse gas emissions reduction target by 2020, increasing to 30 per cent. by 2020 as part of a comprehensive global deal. The Government will amend the carbon budgets following such a global deal and once proposals on sharing out the new EU target are agreed.

### Climate Change

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to appoint a permanent Director General for National Climate Change and Consumer Support. [280354]

**Joan Ruddock:** Phil Wynn-Owen has been appointed as Director General, National Climate Change and Consumer Support. Phil joined the Department on 15 June 2009.

### Departmental Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278725]

**Joan Ruddock:** Under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008, DECC is required to give a summary report on data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner in our annual resource accounts.

We will be publishing information on personal data security breaches reported to the Information Commissioner for the 2008-09 reporting year before Parliament rises in July. The information is currently being compiled and is to be audited and verified before it is laid before Parliament.

### Departmental Manpower

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 628W, on departmental personnel, how many Civil Service fast streamers are in post in his Department. [280332]

**Joan Ruddock:** DECC was formed from the Climate Change Directorates from DEFRA and the Energy Group from what was then BERR, now BIS. DECC inherited 17 Fast streamers from BERR and 30 from DEFRA. The total number of fast streamers currently working in DECC is 47.

### Fuel Poverty

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect of the application of the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008 on levels of fuel poverty. [270906]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government are committed to tackling fuel poverty, and have spent £20 billion on fuel poverty benefits and programmes since 2000. The fuel poverty implications of the Climate Change Act will depend on the specific policies to deliver the carbon budgets and to mitigate fuel poverty. In the summer, the Government will lay a report before Parliament on a package of policies and proposals for meeting the first three carbon budgets, as part of an Energy and Climate Change Strategy. This will include an assessment of the overall impact of the package on fuel poverty. An initial estimate of the possible impact was contained in the first report of the Committee on Climate Change, published on 1 December 2008, and the Government's Impact Assessment of the EU Climate and Energy Package and proposed carbon budget levels, published on 22 April 2009.

### Fuel Poverty: North West

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1481W, on fuel poverty, what the reasons are for the relatively high number of fuel poor households in the North West; and whether his Department has any region-specific programmes in place to rectify the situation. [278049]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* In 2006, the latest year for which fuel poverty estimates are available, 14.2 per cent. of households in the north-west were fuel poor. In England as a whole, in the same period, 11.5 per cent. of all households were fuel poor. Table 1 refers.

*Table 1: Fuel Poverty figures, 2006, by Government office region*

| *Government office region* | *Percentage of fuel poor households in region* | *Number of fuel poor households in region (thousand)* |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 16.4 | 179 |
| North West | 14.2 | 415 |
| West Midlands | 13.7 | 304 |
| East Midlands | 12.9 | 236 |
| Yorks and Humber | 12.7 | 273 |
| South West | 11.6 | 256 |
| East England | 9.7 | 224 |
| South East | 8.5 | 291 |
| London | 8.3 | 254 |
| England | 11.5 | 2,432 |

Fuel poverty is caused by the interaction of three things: income, fuel prices and energy efficiency. Therefore, households with low income or very high energy bills are more prone to being fuel poor. In 2006, average household income for households in the north-west was below that of England as a whole, while the average

energy efficiency rating, as measured by SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) was similar to that for England overall.

The combination of national programmes such as Warm Front, Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Decent Homes and local programmes and delivery through local government, partnerships, energy suppliers, Eaga and NEA (such as Warm Zones and the Central Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) are all important in tackling fuel poverty across England. Government do not direct programmes to specific areas but the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) programme to be launched this autumn is proposed to take place in areas of the lowest income decile as measured in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

**Lighting: East of England**

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has allocated to the encouragement of usage of light emitting diode variety light bulbs in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [278849]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government have not allocated funding specifically to the east of England to encourage the use of light emitting diodes (LEDs). However, we recognise the potential that LED lighting can offer and the Energy Saving Trust is funding a number of trials in social housing communal areas, of which one is in Suffolk. Businesses are also encouraged to invest in efficient lighting solutions, including LEDs where appropriate, through the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme. In addition, the Government are working with NHS trusts through the Forward Commitment process to challenge the industry to develop lighting efficiency.

**Members: Correspondence**

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 28 April 2009, on an emissions performance standard for power generation. [279440]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* I apologise for the delay in responding and will do so shortly.

**Olympic Games 2012**

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [279816]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate change is not directly involved in the management of any Olympics projects but the Department and its advisers take part in discussions with the relevant authorities on a range of issues involving the supply of energy and materials for the site and the games.

**Renewable Energy: Housing**

**Mr. Breed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what financial incentives his Department provides to encourage the *(a)* construction and *(b)* adaptation of homes to incorporate (i) renewable energy technologies and (ii) sustainable building materials. [278873]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government play an important role in providing incentives to increase take-up of small scale renewable on-site energy technologies. These technologies have a key role to play in meeting our 2020 renewable targets, and will be essential in achieving our legally binding 2050 target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent. Presently, the main sources of financial support for these technologies come from the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) and the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT).

The LCBP is an £86 million capital grant programme supporting households, communities and the public sector to install small scale onsite energy technologies. A further £45 million was allocated to the programme in Budget 2009, bringing total funding to £131 million. The programme aims to demonstrate how energy efficiency and onsite energy technologies can be combined in a range of buildings to reduce carbon emissions.

To incentivise the installation of microgeneration under CERT, the scheme provides suppliers with a ring-fenced market transformation option which allows them to achieve up to 12 per cent. of their overall CERT target by promoting measures for which there is not yet a developed market. To further incentivise microgeneration, suppliers may increase this market transformation ring-fence by a further 2 per cent. by promoting microgeneration measures; suppliers receive a 50 per cent. uplift in their carbon score within the ring-fence for this.

The LCBP and CERT have made an important contribution to developing a market for low-carbon small-scale generation in the UK. However, we fully acknowledge that we need to go much further if we are to meet our long-term goals. That is why we included powers in the Energy Act 2008 to introduce feed-in tariffs (FITs) for small-scale low-carbon electricity generation (up to a maximum limit of 5 megawatt capacity) through changes to electricity distribution and supply licences. We are currently working to develop recommendations on the design of the mechanism, including the tariff levels and the period during which they will apply, the detail of which we will consult on this summer. We have committed to have feed-in tariffs in place in April 2010.

Powers in the Energy Act also enable a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) to be set up. The powers allow the RHI to provide financial assistance to generators of renewable heat, and producers of renewable biogas and biomethane. The incentive payments will be funded by a levy on suppliers of fossil fuels for heat. Our aim is to make the RHI as accessible, flexible and user-friendly as possible to potential investors in renewable heat at all scales, from domestic to industrial. We are currently working to develop the main features of the RHI scheme, which we will consult on towards the end of this year, and aim to have the RHI in place by April 2011.

In terms of renewable building materials, we provide funding and support for research and dissemination of technology development and information. This Department has part-funded the Renewable House at the Building Research Establishment in Watford which showcases renewable construction technologies on a domestic scale.

The Government also encourage the use of sustainable materials through tightening of Building Regulations. Significantly, we have made a commitment that all new homes must be zero carbon from 2016. To support this ambition the Government launched the Code for Sustainable Homes, which rates a home on a 'whole house' basis with a one to six star rating. The code scores new properties against nine categories, which, in addition to use of sustainable materials, include energy, water, waste and ecology.

The code is voluntary for private sector builders, however. If Government are funding the development, or if the development is being built on Government land code level 3 must be attained. Homes built to this standard must have a 25 per cent. improvement in energy efficiency over current Building Regulations, which may require the inclusion of renewable energy generation, and will include the use of materials with a lower environmental impact.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Balkans: Poverty

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the extent of poverty in *(a)* Kosovo and *(b)* other Balkan countries; and if he will make a statement. [279612]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The World Bank's October 2007 "Kosovo Poverty Assessment Report" estimated that approximately 45 per cent. of the population in Kosovo live below the national poverty line, and 15 per cent. of the population is considered extremely poor. A further 18 per cent. are seen as vulnerable to poverty.

Kosovo is the poorest region in the Balkans. The Department for International Development (DFID) also works in Bosnia and Herzegovina where 18.2 per cent. of the population is reported as living in relative poverty (World Bank, 2007), and in Serbia where the official government poverty figures for 2006 stood at 8.8 per cent.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279498]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** In the past 12 months, the Minister of State for International Development (Mr. Thomas) had one meeting with Demos on 12 May 2009 on joint departmental business with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. No other DFID Ministers have held private meetings with Demos.

It is not possible to provide details of public engagements attended by DFID Ministers at which Demos representatives were present without incurring disproportionate costs.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279499]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have any contracts with Demos.

### Departmental Press

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279422]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The following newspapers and periodicals were delivered to the private offices of the Department for International Development's four Ministers in May 2009:

*Daily Express* (one copy)
*Daily Mail* (three copies)
*Daily Mirror* (one copy)
*Daily Telegraph* (three copies)
*Financial Times* (four copies)
*Glasgow Herald* (one copy)
*The Scotsman* (one copy)
*The Guardian* (four copies)
*The Independent* (two copies)
*The Sun* (one copy)
*The Times* (three copies)
*The Economist* (four copies)
*Spectator* (one copy)
*Foreign Affairs* (one copy)
*Private Eye* (one copy)
*Evening Standard* (one copy)

The total cost for this period was £567.74.

### Developing Countries: Health Services

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the World Bank's health, nutrition and population support for poor people in developing countries from 1997 to 2008; [280245]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the World Bank's health programmes in developing countries between 1997 and 2008. [280217]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The World Bank's role in health, nutrition and population between 1997 and 2007 was recently evaluated by the Bank's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) whose report was published in April. The evaluation provided a self critical look at World Bank support to health and we agreed with its key findings

that Bank health programmes had achieved mixed results. The Department for International Development (DFID) has not undertaken a separate assessment.

The Bank is committed to improving its performance in health, nutrition and population. The Bank's Health, Nutrition and Population Strategy published in 2007 sets a strong direction and is already helping to address several of the weaknesses identified by the IEG's evaluation.

**Kosovo: HIV Infection**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the prevalence of *(a)* HIV/AIDS and *(b)* tuberculosis in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [279611]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** HIV prevalence is very low in Kosovo. The National Institute of Public Health in Kosovo (NIPH) stated that there were 67 HIV positive people in 2006. However, with a very young population, high unemployment and increases in drug use, Kosovo presents an environment where HIV infection could increase rapidly.

The tuberculosis notification rate in Kosovo remains high compared to other Balkans countries but the trend has been downwards. Although there was a slight rise in 2005 to 52 cases per 100,000 people, the number of new cases in that year was half the number reported in 2001.

**Kosovo: Infant Mortality**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* infant and *(b)* maternal mortality rates in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [279610]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Health statistics in Kosovo are not reliable. Nevertheless, the figures available for Kosovo point to health indicators among the worst in Europe, despite the positive downward trend since 2000.

The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) quotes the infant mortality rate for Kosovo as between 35 and 49 per 1,000 live births. For maternal mortality, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) reported a rate of 6.9 per 100,000 births in 2005.

**Kosovo: National Income**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest estimate is of Kosovo's *(a)* gross national income and *(b)* average earnings per head of population; and if he will make a statement. [279613]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Kosovo's statistical systems remain in an early stage of development and all data are therefore subject to high degree of uncertainty. Estimates for gross national income and average earnings per head are not available. However, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that in 2007 Kosovo's gross national disposable income per capita was €1,845. This is projected to increase to €2,053 per capita in 2009, though may have to be adjusted depending on the impact of the global economic crisis. The gross domestic product per capita was listed as €1,611 for 2007 and €1,837 for 2009.

**Kosovo: Unemployment**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of levels of unemployment in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [279609]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Statistical Office of Kosovo (SOK) lists the 2005 total unemployment rate as 41.4 per cent., with 83.7 per cent. of those considered to be long-term unemployed. The unemployment rate for women is 60.5 per cent. However, Kosovo's statistical systems remain in an early stage of development and therefore data are subject to a high degree of uncertainty. The Department for International Development (DFID) has supported the Statistics Office of Kosovo to develop a National Statistics Development Strategy which is now being implemented.

**South Ossetia: Overseas aid**

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in South Ossetia; and what plans his Department has for the delivery of humanitarian aid to South Ossetia. [279206]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** A Department for International Development (DFID) monitoring mission in February 2009 reported that the humanitarian situation in South Ossetia appeared to have stabilised and that the remaining internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Georgia were living in more acceptable humanitarian conditions. However, with the exception of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), humanitarian organisations are still hampered in their ability to access conflict-affected areas despite assurances that unfettered access would be granted.

DFID has so far provided £4 million to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of the region and is continuing to monitor the situation. We are also supporting UK conflict prevention activities through a regional Conflict Prevention Pool which is jointly managed with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence.

**Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid**

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian aid *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the EU and *(c)* the UN has delivered to the Tamil people in Sri Lanka in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [280304]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* Over the last 12 months the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £12.5 million of humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka. Of this approximately £6 million remains to respond rapidly to further needs on the ground and for early recovery when the displaced population are able to return home. All of DFID's humanitarian funding to Sri Lanka is channelled through impartial humanitarian agencies.

*(b)* For 2009 the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has pledged US$ 3.952 million for humanitarian aid for victims of conflict in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

*(c)* The UN has received contributions of US $155,122,669 for the UN Consolidated Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) 2009 for Sri Lanka. This includes contributions for both UN and non-governmental organisations.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Connexions

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many referrals from Jobcentre Plus to Connexions services were made *(a)* in the 2007-08 academic year and *(b)* in the latest period for which figures are available. [254185]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many referrals from Jobcentre Plus to Connexions services were made (a) in the 2007-08 academic year and (b) at the latest date for which figures are available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus does not record information about the number of customers it refers to Connexions. Jobcentre Plus refers young people to Connexions where it is appropriate, for example, most 16 and 17 year olds claiming a Jobcentre Plus benefit are required to register and attend at Connexions as a condition of their claim.

All other referrals between Jobcentre Plus and Connexions are made on a more informal and voluntary basis where a Jobcentre Plus adviser believes that Connexions are better placed to provide the help required.

### Departmental Pay

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff employed in London on work contracted out by her Department earn less than £7.45 per hour. [273878]

**Jim Knight:** The number of staff employed in London on work contracted out by the Department for Work and Pensions who earn less than the London living wage of £7.45 is 673.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure her Department has incurred in the provision of programme centres, excluding expenditure on New Deal programmes, in each of the last 10 years. [271699]

**Jim Knight:** Expenditure incurred in the provision of programme centres excluding expenditure on New Deal programmes in each of the last 10 years is as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Total programme centre spend (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 30.8 |
| 2000-01 | 29.9 |
| 2001-02 | 18.6 |
| 2002-03 | 16.1 |
| 2003-04 | 19.4 |
| 2004-05 | 21.4 |
| 2005-06 | 14.0 |
| 2006-07 | 8.4 |
| 2007-08 | 9.6 |
| 2008-09 | 12.3 |

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget for programme centre provision was in 2008-09; and what budget has been set for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [271703]

**Jim Knight:** The budget for programme centre provision for 2008-09 was £16.7 million and the estimated expenditure, pending audit was £12.3 million.

The total budget for programme centre provision in 2009-10 is £23.7 million. This figure includes the budget of £13 million for new provision for newly unemployed (non-professional) support delivered by programme centres.

Budgets for years from 2010-11 onwards have not yet been set.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland are claiming disability living allowance; and at what estimated cost in 2009-10. [280143]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following table.

*Disability living allowance: cases in payment, November 2008, and estimated cost in 2009-10*

| *Country* | *Disability living allowance, cases in payment, November 2008 (Thousand)* | *Estimated cost in 2009-10 cash prices (£ billion)* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 2,451 | 9.2 |
| Scotland | 329 | 1.3 |
| Wales | 237 | 0.9 |

*Notes:*

1. Cases in payment are caseload totals. These show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital. The latest available data is presented here.
2. Expenditure is forecast for Great Britain only and not for individual countries. Estimated costs have been derived by applying estimated country shares to forecast Great Britain spending in 2009-10. Forecast Great Britain spending is at Budget 2009. Estimated out-turn country shares for 2008-09 are the average of country shares of spending at August and November 2008.

*Sources:*

1. Cases in Payment: Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
2. Estimated Cost: Budget 2009 expenditure forecast distributed across countries in line with estimated out-turn for 2008-09, using statistical estimates for August and November 2008.

## Employment Schemes

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans she has had to review the scheme for providing businesses with recruitment subsidy via Jobcentre Plus. [278477]

**Jim Knight:** The Policy Studies Institute has been commissioned by DWP to undertake an independent evaluation of the entire six month offer of extra support for jobseekers, of which the recruitment subsidy is one element. Findings will inform understanding of the operation and effectiveness of the recruitment subsidy. The first published report from the evaluation will be available in December 2009.

As we do for all our initiatives, the Department will continue to monitor the recruitment subsidy and in light of this, and information emerging from the evaluation, will make any necessary adjustments to the recruitment subsidy.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have applied for a work trial placement in each of the last six months. [278851]

**Jim Knight:** Information on the number of people who have applied for a work trial in each of the last six months is not available. This is because customers do not, in the commonly accepted sense, 'apply' for a work trial. A work trial may be arranged by Jobcentre Plus if, at the end of the normal recruitment process for a current vacancy, either the employer or customer (or both) has any lingering doubts about suitability.

Information on the number of work-trial starts in each of the last six months is available and is shown in the following table.

*Number of work trial starts in each of the last six months*

| *Month* | *Number of starts* |
|---|---|
| December 2008 | 1,961 |
| January 2009 | 2,057 |
| February 2009 | 2,572 |
| March 2009 | 3,077 |
| April 2009 | 2,366 |
| May 2009 | 3,580 |

*Source:*
BOXI Management Information

## Employment Services

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Jobcentre Plus Support contracts will replace *(a)* new provision for newly unemployed (non-professional) support delivered by programme centres and *(b)* support for newly unemployed professional and executive customers. [271705]

**Jim Knight:** The Jobcentre Plus Support Contract is planned to commence in December 2009. It will replace the new provision for newly unemployed customers (non professionals). Support arranged for newly unemployed professionals will not be affected by this change. Approximately 15-20 per cent. of the overall budget for the period December 2009 to March 2010 for support contracts is expected to be spent on support for the newly unemployed.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of the Jobcentre Plus support contracts in each of the next three years. [271706]

**Jim Knight:** Current estimates are shown in the following table:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 8 |
| 2010-11 | 24 |
| 2011-12 | 12 |

These figures are based on assessments made prior to the 2009 Budget. The Jobcentre Plus support contract is currently half way through a two stage procurement process. Detail on the breakdown of funding was set out in the Pre Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ) information. Funding levels can be adjusted by DWP to reflect increased or decreased volumes.

## Employment Services: Finance

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what budget her Department has allocated for *(a)* new provision for newly unemployed (non-professional) support delivered by programme centres and *(b)* support for newly unemployed professional and executive customers in 2009-10. [271704]

**Jim Knight:** The total budget allocated for *(a)* new provision for newly unemployed (non-professional) support delivered by programme centres and *(b)* support for newly unemployed professional and executive customers in 2009-10 is £17.0 million (£13.0 million for contracted one-day seminars and £4 million for Jobcentre Plus Group information sessions and follow-up interviews) and £3.0 million respectively. From December 2009 provision for newly unemployed (non-professional) support will be delivered via the new Jobcentre Plus support contracts and therefore a proportion of this budget will be used to fund the new contracts from this date.

## Employment Tribunals Service

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many actions under employment law have been brought against her Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by her Department at an employment tribunal. [277424]

**Jim Knight:** Our records show the following actions under employment law in the Employment Tribunal brought against the Department for Work and Pensions (including Jobcentre Plus) in England, Wales and Scotland in each of the last three years:

*1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007*

252 cases in total, of which:

78 were settled

112 were withdrawn by the Claimant or dismissed by the Tribunal

17 were won by the Department at hearing

5 were lost (i.e. findings against the Department) at hearing

28 were struck out

1 where advice was given

5 are ongoing; and

6 outcomes which are unknown/unrecorded

*1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008*

295 cases in total of which:

90 were settled

106 were withdrawn by the claimants or dismissed by the Tribunal

23 were won by the Department at hearing

3 were lost (i.e. findings against the Department)

23 were struck out

1 multiple claims was part won/part lost;

49 claims are ongoing

*1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009*

255 cases in total of which:

35 were settled

45 were withdrawn by the Claimant or dismissed by the Tribunal

11 were won by the Department at hearing

6 were lost (i.e. findings against the Department)

8 were struck out

1 in which advice was given; and

149 claims are still ongoing

Tables 1, 2 and 3 show the breakdown of the claims against the Department during the requested reporting period by category. Where an action involved more than one type of claim (for example, unfair dismissal and discrimination) this has been recorded as a "multiple" claim.

*Table 1: Employment tribunal claims against DWP for period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007*

| | Claims |
|---|---|
| Age Discrimination | |
| Breach of contract | 1 |
| Bullying and Harassment | 1 |
| Change of working hours | |
| Constructive dismissal | 10 |
| Disability Discrimination | 91 |
| Dismissal | 1 |
| Equal Pay | 1 |
| Flexible working | 1 |
| Grievance | |
| Health and Safety | 1 |
| Part time workers—less favourable treatment | 1 |
| Protected disclosure | 1 |
| Race Discrimination | 5 |
| Redundancy | |
| Religion or belief—discrimination | 1 |
| Right to be accompanied | 2 |
| Sex Discrimination | 9 |
| Sexual Orientation—discrimination | 2 |
| Trade Union activities | 3 |
| Unfair dismissal | 50 |
| Unauthorised deductions from wages | 2 |
| Unpaid wages | |
| Victimisation | |
| Working Time Regulations/ Holiday Pay | 1 |
| Wrongful dismissal | |
| Unrecorded | 6 |
| Multiple claims | 62 |
| Total | 252 |

*Table2: Employment Tribunal claims against DWP for period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008*

| | Claims |
|---|---|
| *Single Claim* | |
| Age Discrimination | 22 |
| Breach of contract | — |
| Constructive dismissal | 3 |
| Disability Discrimination | 110 |
| Dismissal | — |
| Equal Pay | 4 |
| Flexible working | — |
| Health and Safety | 1 |
| Misconduct | — |
| Part time workers—less favourable treatment | 2 |
| Protected disclosure | — |
| Race Discrimination | 6 |
| Redundancy | 0 |
| Religion or belief—discrimination | 0 |
| Right to be accompanied | — |
| Sex Discrimination | 13 |
| Sexual Orientation—discrimination | 1 |
| Trade Union activities | 5 |
| Unfair dismissal | 33 |
| Unauthorised deductions from wages | 4 |
| Unpaid wages | — |
| Victimisation | 3 |
| Working Time Regulations/ Holiday Pay | — |
| Wrongful dismissal | — |
| Unrecorded | — |
| Time of work | 4 |
| Unlawful requirement to make payment to employer | 3 |
| *Multiple claims* | 81 |
| Total | 295 |

*Table 3: Employment Tribunal claims against DWP for period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009*

| | Claims |
|---|---|
| *Single claims* | |
| Age Discrimination | 8 |
| Breach of contract | 1 |
| Constructive dismissal | 4 |
| Disability Discrimination | 64 |
| Equal Pay | — |
| Flexible working | 1 |
| Health and Safety | — |
| Part time workers—less favourable treatment | — |
| Protected disclosure | 1 |

*Table 3: Employment Tribunal claims against DWP for period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009*

| | Claims |
|---|---|
| Race Discrimination | 7 |
| Redundancy | 1 |
| Religion or belief—discrimination | 2 |
| Right to be accompanied | — |
| Sex Discrimination | 12 |
| Sexual Orientation—discrimination | — |
| Trade Union activities | 5 |
| Unfair dismissal | 47 |
| Unauthorised deductions from wages | 18 |
| Unpaid wages | 1 |
| Victimisation | — |
| Working Time Regulations/ Holiday Pay | 1 |
| Wrongful dismissal | — |
| Unrecorded | 2 |
| *Multiple claims* | 80 |
| Total | 255 |

## Jobcentre Plus

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost of a course delivered at a Jobcentre Plus programme centre is. [271702]

**Jim Knight:** Programme centre contract prices for 2009-10 are £328 per successful outcome (between £347 and £386 in London). Of this, 70 per cent. is paid up front when a customer starts and the remaining 30 per cent. is paid only if the customer is placed into employment. On average, the anticipated costs are around £254 per person (between £269 and £299 in London).

## Jobcentre Plus: Plymouth

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent assessment she has made of the capacity of Plymouth Jobcentre Plus office to meet the demand for its services; [277291]

(2) what the average waiting time for applicants for assistance to Plymouth Jobcentre Plus office *(a)* to be processed and *(b)* to receive benefit was in the latest period for which figures are available. [277292]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what recent assessment she has made of the capacity of Plymouth Jobcentre Plus office to meet the current demands for its services; and what the waiting time for applicants for assistance to Plymouth Jobcentre Plus office (a) to be processed and (b) to receive benefit is. These are issues which fall within my responsibilities as the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I can confirm that we have been reviewing our resource and estates to meet customer demand for our services in the Plymouth area since January 2009. This review includes looking at the capacity of the Plymouth and Devonport Jobcentres to expand customer facing services. Full site visits were carried out at both locations on 6 May to finalise plans to free up space for additional workstations and hold group information sessions.

In addition, we are also looking into using other government departments premises to house some of our work. For example Land Registry premises are being considered nationally to accommodate some of our back of house functions. The site at Crownhill in Plymouth offers us potential for up to 400 seats. The proposed work to be relocated to this site includes the Fraud Investigation Service, Security Advisers, Learning and Development and Local Employment Partnerships work. Use of these alternative premises will free up floor space in both Jobcentres to expand customer-facing services in both Plymouth and Devonport.

We are using a number of partners' premises to conduct a range of customer-facing activity. For example, Picquet Barracks in Devonport is going to be used to support the forthcoming Princess Yachts redundancies. New claims and some review meetings will take place in this location for Princess Yacht customers and these premises will be available in the short term for any other redundancies.

We have also reviewed the staffing levels in Plymouth, and have recently recruited eight new members of staff for Plymouth Jobcentre and 12 for Devonport at administration level. These new staff will be involved in conducting new claims interviews for Jobseeker's Allowance customers and subsequent fortnightly jobsearch reviews. An additional recruitment exercise is underway to recruit advisers to conduct Work Focussed Interviews and periodic reviews for customers, plus additional administrative support.

In addition we have recruited additional staff at the Plymouth Benefit Delivery Centre to handle telephone calls from customers enquiring about their benefit.

Customers contacting us to make a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance are currently waiting between three and five days from their initial contact to see an adviser for their New Claims Interview at Plymouth Jobcentre and two days at Devonport Jobcentre. Unfortunately waiting times for an appointment in Plymouth Jobcentre have risen higher than we would like due to several local large scale redundancies. However we are working additional hours during weekends to undertake new claims interviews to reduce waiting times for customers.

Claims for customers living in the Plymouth area are processed at the Benefit Delivery Centre located at Old Tree Court in Plymouth. The table below shows the current average time taken in April 2009 to process and pay benefit due on claims dealt with at our Plymouth Benefit Delivery Centre.

| *Benefit type* | *Target clearance time* | *Actual clearance time in April 2009* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Days* | *Days* |
| Jobseeker's Allowance | 11.5 | 10.62 |
| Employment and Support Allowance | 21 | 11.31 |
| Income Support | 10 | 9.37 |

Staff at the Benefit Delivery Centre are also working overtime at the weekends to maximise claims clearance times.

We are confident that the plans we have made to expand our resource and estates in Plymouth will meet the needs of our customers. We will be continuously monitoring and reviewing our services to ensure we maintain the highest standards of customer service.

## Jobcentre Plus: Standards

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps Jobcentre Plus has taken to manage an increase in the number of people claiming benefits. [271698]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps Jobcentre Plus has taken to manage an increase in the number of people claiming benefits. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Government's continuing investment in Jobcentre Plus means that it is well placed to handle the impact of the current economic conditions and deal effectively with the increase in the number of people claiming benefits. The Department also regularly reviews the capacity and capability of Jobcentre Plus to effectively deliver the full range of services for which it is responsible.

Jobcentre Plus has already implemented a number of measures to increase its workforce, maximise the use of estate and streamline business processes. It will continue this approach during 2009/10 as Jobcentre Plus continues to recruit the additional staff funded through the Budget settlement. All of this work means that Jobcentre Plus is in a strong position to maintain customer service levels and deliver the services the newly unemployed need.

I am pleased to report that, despite the very large increases in the number of people seeking assistance ffom Jobcentre Plus over recent months, in 2008/09 new claims for Jobseeker's Allowance were cleared in an average of just over 10 days. This is ahead of the target of 11.5 days. It is also currently seeing around 80% of people within three days from the date of their claim to talk about help in finding work.

## Jobseeker's Allowance: Lincolnshire

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants resident in *(a)* Great Grimsby and *(b)* Cleethorpes received JSA was in each of the last five years. [279270]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what average length of time jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants resident in *(a)* Great Grimsby and *(b)* Cleethorpes received JSA in each of the last five years.

(279270)

Data on the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been calculated, as the time between the start of an individual's claim and that claim ending, for completed claims only. Table 1 shows the median length of completed claims ('off-flows') during the April count period in each of the last 5 years.

*Table 1. Median length of completed claims (off-flows) of Jobseeker's allowance for claimants resident in Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes parliamentary constituencies*

| | | *Months* |
|---|---|---|
| *April each year* | *Great Grimsby* | *Cleethorpes* |
| 2005 | 9.2 | 8.0 |
| 2006 | 11.5 | 10.9 |
| 2007 | 10.4 | 10.2 |
| 2008 | 11.3 | 9.2 |
| 2009 | 10.4 | 10.8 |

*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

## National Insurance: Greater London

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new national insurance numbers excluding those generated automatically at the age of 16 have been issued to residents of the London Borough of *(a)* Newham, *(b)* Tower Hamlets, *(c)* Waltham Forest, *(d)* Hackney, *(e)* Barking and Dagenham and *(f)* Greenwich in each of the last five years. [270230]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is in the following table.

The national insurance number statistics show the total number of NINOs allocated—not the number of migrants living in the UK. We know that many people come to work for a short period then return—the statistics do not distinguish between transient/short term working and longer-term workers.

*National insurance number registrations issued to adult overseas nationals entering the UK*

| | | | | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Hackney | 5.47 | 7.65 | 7.46 | 8.53 |
| Newham | 10.45 | 14.87 | 15.67 | 20.51 |
| Tower Hamlets | 7.28 | 10.46 | 11.57 | 13.21 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2.53 | 3.16 | 3.08 | 4.29 |
| Greenwich | 3.64 | 5.69 | 5.69 | 6.53 |
| Waltham Forest | 7.01 | 9.9 | 9.46 | 12.67 |
| UK total | 435.35 | 663.06 | 705.84 | 733.09 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and displayed in thousands. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.
2. Registration date is derived from the date at which a national insurance number (NINO) is maintained on the National Insurance Recording System.
3. Totals do not include adult UK nationals issued with NINOs.
4. Geographical counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the NINO recipient.

*Source:*
100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System.

Improvements have been made to the allocation of migrants whose residential address is incomplete. Figures reflect the best estimate of an overseas national's locality at the time of registering for a NINO.

The latest year that full data are available is 2007-08. In the six months April to September 2008, 342,800 NINO registrations were issued to adult overseas nationals, broken down as follows:

| | *Registrations* |
|---|---|
| Hackney | 4,350 |
| Newham | 10,680 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6,470 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2,350 |
| Greenwich | 3,160 |
| Waltham Forest | 6,340 |

## New Deal Schemes

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals have been on the *(a)* new deal 25 plus, *(b)* new deal 50 plus, *(c)* new deal for partners, *(d)* new deal for disabled people,

*(e)* new deal for young people, *(f)* new deal for lone parents and *(g)* new deal for musicians programmes more than once in a year by region since their inception. [268688]

**Jim Knight:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

New deal for musicians is an integral part of new deal for young people and new deal 25+ and as such is not recorded separately.

Information for new deal 50+ and new deal for partners is temporarily unavailable while a potential problem with these breakdowns is investigated.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a cap may be placed on referrals to *(a)* New Deal for Young People, *(b)* New Deal 25 plus, *(c)* Employment Zones, *(d)* New Deal for Disabled People, *(e)* New Deal for Lone Parents and *(f)* other New Deal programmes as a result of (i) capacity and (ii) budgetary constraints. [271718]

**Jim Knight:** From 6 April Jobcentre Plus started delivering the enhanced Jobseekers Regime in the 28 Jobcentre Plus districts in Phase 1. In July 2008, the existing New Deal (including Private Sector Led) and Employment Zone (incorporating new deal for lone parents) providers were notified that their contracts would end in April 2009, with the Flexible New Deal providers due to start delivering tailored support to customers from October 2009.

Following consultation with the existing providers (in December 2008), smoother transitional arrangements between April and October 2009 were agreed involving additional referrals to existing New Deal and Employment Zone providers being maintained until June 2009, with those services being continued alongside the enhanced Jobseekers Regime. The number of additional referrals was agreed with providers at a level that will enable customers to complete their provision and be returned to Jobcentre Plus on a phased basis by the end of September 2009.

New Deal and Employment Zone referrals in Phase 2 areas will continue as normal and will not be capped as a result of capacity or budgetary constraints. New deal for disabled people is not affected by these arrangements.

Jobseekers in all areas also have access to the recently introduced extra help for the newly unemployed and an expanded range of work and training options to provide jobs through recruitment subsidies, support to start a business, work-related training and volunteering opportunities.

In his Budget 2009 Report the Chancellor announced an additional £1.7 billion for the Department for Work and Pensions to deal with the increased workload and associated pressures on Jobcentre Plus and employment programme providers resulting from changes in the economy. This is in addition to the £1.3 billion announced at the pre-Budget report.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding her Department has allocated from *(a)* the £1.7 billion funding allocation announced in the Budget 2009 and *(b)* the £1.3 billion announced in the pre-Budget report in November 2008 to Flexible New Deal; and if she will make a statement. [277071]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The Budget 2009 announced additional funding for the long-term unemployed of £620 million in addition to £350 million that had been announced at the pre-Budget report. Most of the provision for long-term unemployed people will be provided through the Flexible New Deal over the next two years, although phased implementation means that there will still be some expenditure on New Deal and Employment Zones programmes over the next two years.

### Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 483W, on welfare state: EU enlargement, when she expects the report on the review of EEA nationals' access to benefits to be published. [278332]

**Jim Knight:** The main findings of the review were that there were robust rules already in place on EEA nationals' access to the benefit system but that a stronger test of employment prospects should be applied to EEA nationals claiming income based jobseeker's allowance, and that the Department's ability to monitor claims to benefit from EEA nationals should be improved. There are complex issues related to EU law to be considered before decisions can be reached on the way forward.

### Social Security Benefits: Payments

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of the average bridging payment to be paid to claimants of each type of benefit moving to fortnightly benefit payments in arrears under the provisions of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) (Amendment (No.2)) Regulations 2008 and the Social Security (Transitional Payments) Regulations 2008; [272663]

(2) what estimate she has made of the average benefit payment made to claimants of each type of benefit who will move to fortnightly benefit payments in arrears under the provisions of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) (Amendment (No.2)) Regulations 2008 and the Social Security (Transitional Payments) Regulations 2008. [272665]

**Jim Knight:** We have not made an estimate of the average amount of bridging payment as payments will be made at a rate equivalent to 100 per cent. of the customer's actual weekly benefit.

Information about the average benefit payment made to claimants of each type of benefit, who will move to fortnightly benefit payments in arrears, is not available.

### Train to Gain Programme: North East

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the North East are taking part in the Train to Gain programme. [276626]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

Table 1 shows the number of people starting a Train to Gain programme by local authority, between 2005-06 and 2007-08.

*Table 1: Train to Gain Starts in the North East*

| *Local Authority* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Darlington | 100 | 500 | 700 |
| Durham | 1,000 | 3,400 | 4,200 |
| Gateshead | 300 | 1,200 | 1,700 |
| Hartlepool | 100 | 500 | 700 |
| Middlesbrough | 200 | 900 | 1,100 |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne | 200 | 1,300 | 1,700 |
| North Tyneside | 200 | 1,100 | 1,400 |
| Northumberland | 300 | 1,500 | 2,000 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 200 | 1,000 | 1,200 |
| South Tyneside | 300 | 1,000 | 1,200 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 200 | 1,000 | 1,300 |
| Sunderland | 400 | 1,800 | 2,600 |
| Total | 3,500 | 15,200 | 19,800 |

*Notes:*
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 100 . Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. This table uses programme starts as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts at any point during the year. Learners starting more than one course will appear more than once.
3. Area is based on learner's home postcode.

*Source:*
WBL, ILR, NES

### Work Trials

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals in each region have been on the Work Trial programme more than once since its inception; [268683]

(2) how many individuals in each region took part in the Work Trial programme *(a)* in each year since its inception and *(b)* in each of the last eight quarters. [268684]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not collated centrally.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Cotswolds Conservation Board

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the *(a)* Cotswolds Conservation Board and *(b)* Chilterns Conservation Board is not on the list of statutory consultees for national planning policy statements. [279861]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty—AONB—Conservation Boards are included within the list of statutory consultees for National Policy Statements. The Cotswolds and Chilterns Conservation Boards, by virtue of being such organisations, are thereby included. The full list is set out within Statutory Instrument No. 2009/1302 which comes into force on 22 June 2009.

### Council Housing

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn, Hatfield of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1104W, on council housing, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the 98 written responses. [279860]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Yes. Copies of the responses to the recent consultation on changes to the revenue and capital rules for council housing, will be placed in the Library when we have considered the responses and made final decisions on the exclusions process and criteria.

### Council Housing: Finance

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities may apply for National Affordable Housing Programme grant funding to build local authority housing. [279779]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We have made £100 million available in the Budget for local authorities to build social housing. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) will accept local authority bids under this programme until the bidding has been concluded and the funding allocated after the July and October bidding rounds. Thereafter, local authorities may bid for grant from the main National Affordable Housing Programme.

### Council Tax: Statistics

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1340W, on statistics: council tax, for what reasons his Department has not responded to the UK Statistics Authority's notification of 6 January 2009 that it wished to assess and determine whether the Code of Practice for Official Statistics had been complied with in respect of statistics on council tax levels set by local authorities. [279793]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Following receipt of the UK Statistics Authority's letter, my officials met the authority and agreed that no response to the letter was necessary until my Department has decided whether or not to seek designation. It was agreed that this decision would be taken later in the year.

### Homes and Communities Agency: Internet

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was spent on the establishment of websites for the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority; [280285]

(2) how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions were registered on the (i) Homes and Communities Agency and (ii) the Tenant Services Authority website in each month since its creation. [280297]

**John Healey:** The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) spent £47,219 on the establishment of its website.

The number of unique visitors and page impressions registered are listed as follows:

*HCA website usage stats*

| | *Unique visitors* | *Page views/impressions* |
|---|---|---|
| December 2008 | 19,721 | 190,408 |
| January 2009 | 26,165 | 231,076 |
| February 2009 | 30,077 | 237,243 |
| March 2009 | 32,594 | 241,883 |
| April 2009 | 39,929 | 267,390 |
| May 2009 | 44,241 | 311,907 |

There were no external costs associated with the development of the TSA website. It was created in-house.

The number of unique visitors and page impressions registered are listed as follows:

*TSA website usage stats*

| | *Unique visitors* | *Page views/impressions* |
|---|---|---|
| December 2008 | [1] | [1] |
| January 2009 | 93,521 | 509,356 |
| February 2009 | 94,603 | 518,758 |
| March 2009 | 97,412 | 512,792 |
| April 2009 | 83,667 | 419,873 |
| May 2009 | 83,269 | 395,983 |

[1] No figures available

## Housing: Low Incomes

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements there are for *(a)* audit and *(b)* evaluation of the customer service given by HomeBuy agents. [279968]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply that my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) gave on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 242-3W, to the hon. Member for Welywn Hatfield (Grant Shapps).

## Infrastructure Planning Commission: Offices

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of *(a)* the annual cost of office accommodation for the Infrastructure Planning Commission and *(b)* the costs incurred in (i) moving and (ii) refurbishment. [279969]

**John Healey:** The IPC HQ offices will be accommodated within the existing CLG estate in Bristol. This is in line with HMT's Operating and Efficiency Programme and CLG's Group Corporate Services Programme. Our current estimate of the costs of the programme including accommodation is in the impact assessment published in November 2007and the annex published in January 2009. Further work is under way to confirm the annual costs and refurbishment costs which are subject to negotiation at this stage and therefore commercial in confidence.

## Local Government Finance

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission has to review guidance to local authorities on investment policies. [279873]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Officials are working with the Audit Commission, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy—CIPFA—and the local authority associations to assess how the Department's investment guidance might be fine tuned in light of the report from the CLG Select Committee and the report of the Audit Commission on local authorities and Icelandic banks. The Department's guidance on local government investments is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/lginvest2.pdf

The Audit Commission does not issue guidance to authorities on investment policies.

## London Development Agency: Consultants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the London Development Agency spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [279380]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The London Development Agency is primarily accountable to the Mayor of London for the use of its expenditure, and the Government do not collect information on consultants.

## London Development Agency: Pay

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the London Development Agency in each of the last five years. [280320]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The London Development Agency is primarily accountable to the Mayor of London for the use of its expenditure, and the Government do not collect information on any bonuses paid to its staff.

## Mortgages: Government Assistance

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each district of Greater Manchester have *(a)* received assistance from and *(b)* been refused assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme because the value of their property exceeds the eligible criteria. [279864]

**John Healey:** The £285 million Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across the country since January 2009. The scheme aims to support "vulnerable" households (families with dependent children, or those containing elderly, ill or disabled people, who can no longer afford their repayments and who would be legally entitled to homelessness assistance if repossessed) in England at risk of repossession over the next two years. The scheme is one part of a comprehensive package of measures to help households at risk of repossession.

The scheme aims to offer help at different stages to vulnerable households facing repossession. Based on figures reported to CLG by local authorities participating in the scheme, 290 households in mortgage difficulties within the Greater Manchester region have so far received free advice and support from their local authority since the launch of the scheme.

Based on the latest published statistics, 45 households in the Greater Manchester area were being assessed for the Government Mortgage to Rent and Shared Equity options of the scheme as at the end of April. A further 10 households in the following local authorities had benefited from action through the scheme in which the lender agreed to halt repossession action and freeze charges.

Bolton—(one household)

Bury—(two households)

Manchester—(five households)

Oldham—(two households)

Additionally, two households in Oldham had received a formal offer of assistance to remain in their home from their housing association provider.

Only one household in the Greater Manchester area has so far been ineligible for the Government Mortgage to Rent and Shared Equity options of the Scheme due to the property price cap. From 1 May, we raised the regional property caps for all regions to allow more households to apply for help.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications have been made to the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme to date; and how many of these have met the eligibility criteria. [280051]

**John Healey:** The scheme opened with the first group of lenders on 21 April. Borrowers apply to the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme through their lender. Before being admitted to the scheme, they need to take money advice. We have worked with the participating lenders to produce a proportionate reporting system. Official figures on the number of households entering the scheme will be published later this year.

### Parks: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many parks in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport are receiving funding from his Department. [280429]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Public parks and green spaces are primarily funded through revenue support grant provided to local authorities by Communities and Local Government. Central Government do not prescribe how much should be spent by each local authority on their open spaces; this is a matter for them to determine in line with local priorities.

Information is not collected by central Government on the number of parks in a local authority area or region.

### Planning Permission

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local planning authorities have completed the process of adopting their local development documents. [279923]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Local Development Framework is the collective name for a suite of local development documents which includes core strategies and other development plan documents, supplementary planning documents and statements of community involvement.

The number and type of local development documents will vary between local authorities as will timetables. These are published on each local authority's website. According to the Department's database, 97 core strategies or other development plan documents have been adopted by local planning authorities with a further 16 found sound by the Planning Inspectorate and awaiting adoption. The most recent list of documents can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website:

http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/appeals/local_dev/dpd/submitted_dpd's_may_09.pdf

This figure excludes all supplementary planning documents which are a local matter. In addition, all authorities have adopted statements of community involvement.

### Planning Permission: Nature Conservation

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of planning applications have been made in respect of sites where a population of *(a)* great crested newts and *(b)* bats has been found. [279221]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The total number of sites subject to planning applications at which great crested newts or bats have been found is not collected. Great crested newts and bats are protected species under the European Habitats Directive and any development proposal that would exceptionally have an adverse effect on them would require a licence from Natural England.

### Regional Resilience Forums

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the members of each regional resilience forum in each Government Office region are. [279875]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The membership of each regional resilience forum in each Government office region has been placed in the Library.

### Sheltered Housing

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will provide guidance to local authorities on use by tenants in sheltered housing of individualised budgets for the employment of housing scheme managers in advance of the expected increase in take-up of direct payments in 2011. [280275]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** CLG will not be providing specific guidance to local authorities to encourage tenants in sheltered housing to move to individual budgets for the employment of housing scheme managers. Individual budgets have been developed to ensure that service users are empowered to choose the service which best suit their needs framework. Also, providing guidance would not fit with the direction on devolution and increased decision making which authorities now have via the new local government framework.

## Social Rented Housing: Standards

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many boilers have been replaced under the Decent Homes programme in each of the last three years. [279041]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** We do not collect data on the number of boilers installed in council homes. However, the statistical return that local authorities complete at the end of each financial year does include data on the number of dwellings that have had new central heating systems installed.

*Number of local authority dwellings receiving new central heating systems by year*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 139,494 |
| 2006-07 | 135,477 |
| 2007-08 | 113,520 |
| Total | 388,491 |

*Source:*
Data from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix

The Department does not collect data on insulation works by registered social landlords.

## Supporting People Scheme

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to ensure the continued operation of Handy Person schemes after 1 April 2010. [280499]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** CLG will provide £17 million dedicated funding for handypersons services, via a separate named grant, in 2010-11. This will be the second year of a two year programme to build capacity in the sector, announced in the Government's housing strategy for an ageing society, Lifetime homes, lifetime neighbourhoods.

## Waste Management: Advisory Bodies

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1164W, on the Waste Regional Advisory Group, what the *(a)* membership and *(b)* remit of each waste regional advisory group is. [279997]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Government Office membership and remit of waste regional advisory group is as in the following table.

| *GO* | *Membership* | *Remit* |
|---|---|---|
| East | None | East does not have a WRAG. |
| West Midlands | None | West Midlands does not have a WRAG. |
| London | None | London does not have a WRAG. |
| North East | Chaired by the Government Office for the North East.<br>Waste specialists from all local authorities in the north-east region.<br>Environment Agency.<br>Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit.<br>North East Regional Waste Awareness Initiative (NERWAI).<br>North East Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.<br>Premier Waste—waste management company.<br>SITA UK—recycling and waste management company.<br>Groundwork UK—environmental regeneration charity. | Advisory in nature. Has an "informal" status. Members need to be clear that this will not be a formally constituted body: it will have no 'official' or statutory duties and responsibilities.<br>The predominant focus will be on local authority performance issues.<br>Principal outcomes:<br>Efficient and effective standing communications between DEFRA's Waste Implementation Programme (WIP) LA support and key regional local authority waste stakeholders.<br>A collective arena within which all regional bodies with a stake in improving LA recycling/recovery performance can meet to inform, engage, 'join up', reflect and propose.<br>Positive development of the WIP LA support programme. More co-ordinated working of regional networks and Government support programmes.<br>Content and Structure of Meetings:<br>An exclusively Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) focus, though this can include other waste streams, providing the impact on municipal waste is evidenced.<br>Local authority performance orientated.<br>Concentrate on issues pertinent to WIP LA support (e.g. early review of emerging projects and tools, development of new project ideas). However, other WIP streams and issues with an explicit regional dimension will also need to be coordinated with the Regional Technical Advisory Board on waste's (RTAB's) responsibilities (e.g. New Technologies, regional market development, land use planning etc.).<br>Emphasis on action and implementation, not a general policy forum, although policy issues cannot be excluded where they have an overt implementation angle.<br>Seeking to secure the most comprehensive regional dissemination and feedback. |
| East Midlands | None | East Midlands does not have a WRAG. |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber (Chair).<br>Local Authorities. | To support local authorities and other partners in achieving improved performance on waste issues.<br>To act as a voice for Y&H Region with DEFRA and other national organisations and to be a mechanism to influence and support the implementation of DEFRA and other policy within the region. |

| GO | Membership | Remit |
|---|---|---|
| | Local Government Yorkshire and Humber. | Co-ordinating input to other regional forums and develop good communication links with them e.g. RTAB and RIWMS, Yorkshire Forward |
| | Environment Agency. | Seek opportunities to share best practise and strengthen partnership working and networks and influence emerging projects and initiatives, including developing the most effective and efficient mechanism for regional dissemination. |
| | LARAC. | |
| | Yorkshire Forward. | |
| | Resources North. | |
| | Resource Efficiency Yorkshire. | |
| South East | None | South East does not have a WRAG. |
| South West | None | South West does not have a WRAG. |
| North West | The NW WRAG is chaired by GONW and comprised of representatives. | The WRAG Remit includes: |
| | From: Government Office for the North West (chair and secretariat). | A Strategic Focus on Municipal Waste in the NW and on Local Authority waste performance. |
| | Regional Technical advisory body 4NW regional leaders forum. | Addressing issues relevant to DEFRA's waste implementation programme (WIP) (e.g. early review of emerging projects and tools, development of new project ideas). |
| | North West Development Agency | The co-ordination of other WIP streams and issues with an explicit regional dimension (e.g. new technologies, regional market development, land use planning etc.). |
| | Environment Agency. | Maximising regional dissemination of WIP to stakeholders through regional and sub-regional partnerships. |
| | 3 x waste disposal authorities (including at least 1 Joint WDA). | Collective feedback to DEFRA on consultations and emerging policies. |
| | 5 x waste collection authorities (one per county area). | Regional input to European, national and regional waste strategies, regional spatial strategy and emerging single regional strategy. |
| | Representation from five unitary authorities | Joint consideration of appropriate bids for any future partnership funding e.g. WRAP and other DEFRA LA Waste funding and other funding providers. |
| | NWRF (North West Recycling Forum). | Engage with/organise regional events, lever funding for seminars, workshops and conferences. |
| | WRAP (waste and resources action programme). | The role of the WRAG is evolving in response to changes in the background against which the WRAG operates, notably in relation to regional governance. Partners in the region continue to see a need for the WRAG; and the group is currently involved in developing a programme of support to local delivery partners with the NW improvement and efficiency partnership. |
| | DEFRA WIP (as appropriate) CIWM. | |
| | LARAC (local authority recycling committee). | |
| | NW improvement and efficiency partnership | |



## HEALTH

### Blood: Safety

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what process his Department follows for approving medical products designed to ensure the safety of blood prior to their adoption for use by the National Blood Service; [279472]

(2) how many CE-marked medical products have subjected by his Department to efficacy and safety validation procedures in addition to those performed by manufacturers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 to date. [279473]

**Gillian Merron:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Agency (MHRA) which is the Competent Authority in the United Kingdom for medical devices does not approve medical devices designed to ensure the safety of blood before they are placed on the market. Manufacturers of such medical devices must meet the relevant essential requirements in the Medical Devices directives prior to signing a declaration of conformity and CE marking their products.

Such higher risk medical devices must obtain an EC Certificate of Conformity from a Notified Body as part of this conformity assessment process. As such MHRA has not carried out any safety or validation procedures on any CE marked medical devices in addition to those carried out by the manufacturer. Since the UK Blood Service has a legal responsibility to ensure the quality and safety of blood products, the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (MSBTO) also recommended that clinical trials be carried out, using blood which had been subjected to prion filtration. The independent Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs replaced MSBTO in 2008.

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the P-Capt prion filter has been subjected to safety and efficacy tests additional to those performed by the manufacturer by his Department. [279474]

**Gillian Merron:** The Government's independent expert scientific committee on variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (and other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies), the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, recommended that the UK Blood Service should commission an independent validation of such products. The UK Blood Services have commissioned an independent assessment of the efficacy of the filter.

Quality studies on filtered blood are being conducted in accordance with UK Blood Service guidelines.

The need for safety studies was endorsed by the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs in 2006.

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department of testing the efficacy and safety of the P-Capt prion filter has been since such tests were required. [279475]

**Gillian Merron:** Efficacy and safety tests on the P-Capt filter have incurred no cost to the Department.

## Children: Health

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on the suitability of the use of *(a)* pushchairs and *(b)* car seats of categories 0 and 0+ as domestic seating for infants. [277784]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

This Department does not offer advice to parents and carers who wish to use pushchairs as domestic seating for infants, although we would recommend that anyone wishing to do so consults the pushchair manufacturer for guidance.

The Department for Transport has responsibility for child restraint systems, the construction of which is governed by international UNECE Regulation 44. Compliance with this regulation ensures that children are provided with the best level of protection when travelling in a vehicle. There is no assessment made of the suitability of such a device for use in the home, and therefore the Department offers no guidance on this issue. However, we would recommend that adults wishing to allow infants to remain seated in such a device while in the home consult the child restraint manufacturer.

## Climate Change

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to adapt its activities to climate change in the last two years. [277638]

**Phil Hope:** All Departments are actively involved in the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which aims to help society adapt to climate change. The role of the programme is to develop and provide a comprehensive evidence base including adaptation tools, to raise awareness of the need to adapt, to measure success and to work across Government at all levels to embed adaptation. Further details about the programme's work can be found at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/adapt/index.htm

As well as working together to tackle issues that affect all departments and their work, each Government Department is adapting to climate change in its own operations and policies.

On adaptation to the expected health impacts of climate change, the Department of Health has:

published a report with the Health Protection Agency on the "Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK, 2008", using the UKCIP02 scenarios. The report sets out the various health effects facing the United Kingdom from climate change. A copy has already been placed in the Library;

produced a National Heatwave Plan, first launched in 2004, that is updated yearly based upon the latest available evidence. The plan's purpose is to enhance resilience in the event of a heatwave. A copy has already been placed in the Library. A traffic light 'Heat-Health Watch' system operates in England during the summer months;

produced guidance with the Health Protection Agency on dealing with disruptive challenges and managing incidents including from flooding. The guidance "NHS Resilience and Business Continuity Management Guidance" has been placed in the Library;

raised awareness of the health impacts of climate change with guidance documents on climate change and promoting sustainable communities for the health sector, outlining key mitigation and adaptation policies and also suggesting a code for reducing carbon footprints;

in December 2008, launched a new public health workforce initiative funded by the Department to address climate change. This is tasked with creating a new vision of the role for public health in tackling climate change, equipping the profession to take action on both reducing emissions and on preparing for climate change;

on national health service energy targets, the NHS is working towards mandatory energy and carbon efficiency targets (from 2000 to 2010) and key performance indicators for new capital build developments and refurbishments, and the existing operational estate;

the NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy was recently launched on in January 2009 and sets out ways that these reduction targets can be achieved. The plans cover many aspects of patients' care, from building design to transport, waste, food, water and energy use;

internationally and following on from the WHO Climate Change and Health Resolution, 2008, UK officials have worked with the World Health Organization (WHO) Secretariat to develop a WHO work plan for its implementation. This work plan was agreed at the 62nd World Health Assembly this year; and

the UK also co-chairs a Climate Change and Health Task Force, drafting a Framework for Action for WHO-Europe, given that, since the resolution was passed last year, WHO regions are developing their own climate change action plans.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277722]

**Phil Hope:** It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings over the next three years. It has, however, been shown in the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change that timely and well-targeted climate adaptation measures will yield benefits in excess of their costs. The main rationale for investment to address climate risk will be to reduce the United Kingdom's vulnerability to longer-term climate change impacts.

The Government are undertaking a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Economic Analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation

to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament within three years of the Climate Change Act 2008 coming in to force.

### Diabetes: Orthopaedics

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people diagnosed with diabetes had an amputation in the year 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [279730]

**Ann Keen:** In the year 2007-08 the number of finished consultant episodes for amputations due to diabetes mellitus was 2,114.

Reducing the number of amputations due to diabetes mellitus relies on good self-management of diabetes and good services to support people with diabetes. The Diabetes National Service Framework sets out the overall strategy for preventing long-term complications of the condition. This has also been supplemented by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance, which recommends that people with diabetes should be offered foot examinations by trained personnel as part of their annual review. It also recommends that local national health service organisations have systems in place to identify people who may be at risk of developing foot complications and to offer them preventative foot care.

Commissioning guidance "Putting feet first" was published by NHS Diabetes and Diabetes UK on 12 June and is to assist national health service organisations in developing services for the management of foot complications and the prevention of amputations.

It is for local NHS organisations to commission a comprehensive service for people with diabetes that includes podiatry services, in accordance with best practice guidance.

### Epilepsy

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on *(a)* research into and *(b)* treatment of epilepsy in each of the last five years. [278131]

**Gillian Merron:** The information requested in respect of research expenditure is shown in the following table.

*Expenditure on epilepsy research*

| | | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | *Department of Health* | *Medical Research Council* |
| 2004-05 | 0.4 | 3.9 |
| 2005-06 | 0.2 | 4.9 |
| 2006-07 | 0.4 | 4.9 |
| 2007-08 | 0.9 | 5.9 |
| 2008-09 | 1.5 | [1]— |

[1] Not yet available.

The departmental figures relate to national research programmes. They do not include expenditure on epilepsy research from the research and development allocations made over the period concerned to national health service organisations as that information is not held centrally.

NHS expenditure on the treatment of epilepsy is not separately identifiable.

### Epilepsy: Health Services

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to provide guidance on service improvement to those parts of the NHS engaged in the delivery of services to patients with epilepsy. [280273]

**Ann Keen:** Following my meeting with the all-party parliamentary group on epilepsy on 19 May, I have asked officials to work with epilepsy groups to consider what additional support is needed to improve the commissioning of epilepsy services in those areas of the country where services are not meeting the standards expected within the national health service.

This work will build on earlier guidance to the NHS, including the national service framework for long-term conditions and the clinical guideline the Department commissioned from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the diagnosis and management of the epilepsies in adults and children in primary and secondary care.

### Fluoride: Drinking Water

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of too much fluoride entering the water supply in relation to each water *(a)* authority and *(b)* company have been reported since 1997. [279855]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I have been asked to reply.

The European standard for the maximum permitted level of fluoride in drinking water (1.5mg/l) is enshrined in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 (as amended). The Drinking Water Inspectorate is the enforcement body for these regulations.

Water authorities ceased to exist on privatisation of the water industry in 1989. Water companies are required to notify the Inspectorate of any breach of regulatory standards and the Inspectorate independently assesses the actions taken by the company.

Since 1997 there have been three occasions when the Inspectorate has been notified of fluoride exceeding the standard in England or Wales, as follows:

| | *Occasions of fluoride exceeding the standard* | *Water company* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | None | — |
| 1998 | None | — |
| 1999 | None | — |
| 2000 | 1 | Three Valleys Water |
| 2001 | None | — |
| 2002 | None | — |
| 2003 | None | — |
| 2004 | 1 | Hartlepool Water |
| 2005 | None | — |
| 2006 | None | — |
| 2007 | None | — |
| 2008 | 1 | Severn Trent Water |

### Health Services: Voluntary Organisations

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to develop the role of the voluntary sector in the provision of health and social care. [280276]

**Phil Hope:** The Department values the substantial contribution voluntary organisations and the wider third sector make to the delivery of high quality health and social care services and has taken a strongly pro-active approach to recognising and embracing their contribution as critical and integral to the delivery of improved outcomes in health and social care.

A cross-cutting third sector programme was established in 2007, with the key objective of increasing opportunities for third sector organisations to inform and influence national health service and local authority commissioning and to participate in the provision of services.

The Department's Third Sector Investment Programme helps to strengthen and develop the partnership between the Department and third sector organisations; supporting innovative projects that help secure and promote high quality health and social care throughout England. £17,945,222 was made available in 2009-10 to fund 11 strategic partners, 116 new projects and 191 continuing projects.

### Healthy Start Scheme

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many retailers are participating in his Department's Healthy Start scheme. [280135]

**Gillian Merron:** On 24 April 2009; the most recent date for which figures are available, there were 28,842 individual retail outlets participating in the Healthy Start Scheme in Great Britain.

### Hospitals: Infections

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what further steps he plans to take to reduce levels of healthcare-associated infections. [279577]

**Ann Keen:** The Department's strategy for reducing healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) in the national health service is set out in "Clean, safe care", which has already been placed in the Library.

In addition infection control is one of the top priorities in the NHS Operating Framework. Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Clostridium difficile targets to 2010-11 have been set under the Better Care for All Public Service Agreement. The NHS has met the 50 per cent. MRSA national reduction target. To follow this the National Quality Board is overseeing the development of a new minimum standard for MRSA, which will come into effect from April 2010.

All relevant elective admissions to hospitals are now screened for MRSA, and all emergency admissions will be by 2011. Other steps include a technology programme designed to accelerate the development and uptake of new technologies to improve infection control, the development of a new national standard for cleanliness in the NHS, the expansion of the code of practice for the NHS on the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections to cover all care providers, and a new HCAI patient awareness campaign to be launched in the autumn.

These measures should support the NHS to meet their legal registrations requirements on infection control with the new Care Quality Commission, which has a range of enforcement powers to ensure high performance in infection control. All acute NHS trusts are inspected annually to assess compliance against these requirements.

### Incontinence: Medical Equipment

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department has incurred on the procurement of services from *(a)* Deloitte and *(b)* other consultants in respect of the review of Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and what estimate he has made of the total expenditure to be incurred on the procurement of such services. [279210]

**Phil Hope:** Costs for professional advice from Deloitte were around £3.7 million from April 2005 to February 2009. No other consultants were contracted.

### Mental Health Services: Financial Services

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with the Chancellor of the Exchequer the development of measures to co-ordinate the provision of mental health services with the provision of relevant financial advice services. [279973]

**Phil Hope:** The Government are working to offer help and support to people whose lives are being affected by the current economic recession. This Department, Her Majesty's Treasury, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are co-ordinating efforts to help address the needs of people during the current economic recession.

Health advisers on the dedicated NHS Direct telephone helpline are being trained to identify callers who might be experiencing depression because of the current economic recession and to refer them to appropriate sources of help.

### Mentally Ill: Prisoners

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners were diagnosed with a mental illness in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Eastern region in each of the last five years. [280221]

**Phil Hope:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Midwives

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of midwives recruited into the NHS who were recruited from overseas in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [281122]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not collect data on the number of midwives recruited from overseas centrally.

## MRSA: East of England

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases of MRSA in the East of England region have been reported to his Department in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [280280]

(2) how many cases of MRSA in Luton and Dunstable Hospital have been reported to his Department in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [280281]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested. The data are available only by financial year and the earliest period available is 2001-02.

Since April 2001, all acute national health service trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of bloodstream infections caused by methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

The following data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.

*Number of cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA*

| *April to March each year* | *East of England* | *Luton and Dunstable Foundation Trust* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 662 | 22 |
| 2002-03 | 607 | 28 |
| 2003-04 | 678 | 21 |
| 2004-05 | 725 | 19 |
| 2005-06 | 678 | 32 |
| 2006-07 | 529 | 21 |
| 2007-08 | 333 | 15 |

## National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which interventions *(a)* have been assessed and *(b)* are being assessed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) through its Single Technology Appraisal process; and on what date (i) each such intervention was referred to NICE, (ii) NICE (A) commenced and (B) completed its appraisal of each intervention and (iii) those interventions which have received a licence were licensed by NICE. [279202]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested has been placed in the Library. This includes the date on which drugs were licensed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency or the European Medicines Agency. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is not responsible for the licensing of drugs.

## NHS: ICT

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on the NHS IT dispute process in respect of its dispute with Fujitsu to date. [279213]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** As at 11 June 2009, payments for accountancy, and legal and associated professional services in connection with the dispute resolution process totalled some £2,613,000.

## Osteoporosis: Health Education

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to encourage young people to take action to reduce their chances of having *(a)* osteoporosis and *(b)* fragility fractures in later life. [280238]

**Ann Keen:** A healthy lifestyle, including weight bearing exercise and following a balanced diet, can help to increase bone mineral density and protect against osteoporosis and the risk of fragility fractures in later life.

The Department is working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to address healthy lifestyles for children and young people on a variety of key health issues including exercise and diet. Holistic health initiatives such as the Healthy Schools Programme and the Healthy Further Education Programme are ensuring that progress continues to be made to develop healthy lifestyles among children and young people.

The society-wide movement, Change 4 Life, will also help children and their families become healthier by improving diets and levels of activity.

## Osteoporosis: Males

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to improve treatment of men who *(a)* have osteoporosis and *(b)* are at high risk of fragility fractures. [280173]

**Ann Keen:** The forthcoming prevention package for older people will include a focus on best practice for commissioning falls prevention and care for people with fractures and will support local national health service and social care organisations to improve services for falls, fractures and osteoporosis. We will continue to review the evidence and opportunity for improved services in this area.

A healthy lifestyle, including weight bearing exercise and following a healthy diet, is a key element of managing osteoporosis. The society-wide movement, Change 4 Life, will help people become healthier by improving diets and levels of activity.

## Strokes

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases of stroke there were in *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group in North Devon in each year since 1999; [280159]

(2) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group under the age of 50 years were diagnosed as having had a stroke in each year since 1999. [280161]

**Ann Keen:** The following tables and notes show how many finished admission episodes for stroke, broken down by age group and sex for the years 1999-2000 to 2007-08 and how many finished admission episodes for stroke in Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT) broken down by age group and sex.

*Count of finished admission episodes for stroke[1] in Devon PCT, broken down by age group and sex, for the years 1999-2000 to 2007-08: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| Sex | Age group | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 2002-03 | 2001-02 | 2000-01 | 1999-2000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 0-9 | * | * | * | * | * | 6 | 0 | 0 | * |
| | 10-19 | 0 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 0 |
| | 20-29 | * | * | * | * | * | * | 7 | 6 | * |
| | 30-39 | 13 | 8 | * | 12 | 11 | 15 | 10 | 18 | 9 |
| | 40-49 | 31 | 45 | 25 | 21 | 27 | 31 | 20 | 22 | 19 |
| | 50-59 | 61 | 71 | 69 | 78 | 77 | 64 | 89 | 61 | 56 |
| | 60-69 | 179 | 129 | 121 | 132 | 128 | 121 | 118 | 133 | 149 |
| | 70-79 | 268 | 277 | 268 | 232 | 250 | 264 | 302 | 300 | 340 |
| | 80-89 | 298 | 302 | 285 | 261 | 284 | 229 | 230 | 219 | 245 |
| | 90+ | 70 | 76 | 70 | 68 | 43 | 60 | 39 | 45 | 39 |
| | Unknown | * | * | 9 | * | * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Female | 0-9 | * | * | 0 | * | * | * | 0 | 0 | * |
| | 10-19 | 0 | * | * | * | 0 | * | 0 | * | * |
| | 20-29 | * | * | * | 11 | * | * | * | * | * |
| | 30-39 | 11 | * | 11 | 9 | 12 | 17 | 6 | 8 | 8 |
| | 40-49 | 29 | 23 | 16 | 16 | 34 | 23 | 32 | 19 | 26 |
| | 50-59 | 43 | 48 | 43 | 54 | 30 | 54 | 55 | 60 | 53 |
| | 60-69 | 114 | 85 | 93 | 100 | 82 | 81 | 80 | 98 | 98 |
| | 70-79 | 248 | 255 | 269 | 236 | 240 | 243 | 260 | 315 | 292 |
| | 80-89 | 453 | 469 | 430 | 413 | 406 | 400 | 422 | 427 | 390 |
| | 90+ | 173 | 142 | 178 | 200 | 164 | 141 | 126 | 127 | 134 |
| | Unknown | 9 | * | 13 | 6 | * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

*Count of finished admission episodes for stroke[1], broken down by age group and sex, for the years 1999-2000 to 2007-08 in England: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| Sex | Age group | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 2002-03 | 2001-02 | 2000-01 | 1999-2000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 0-9 | 163 | 158 | 163 | 154 | 145 | 136 | 97 | 117 | 153 |
| | 10-19 | 113 | 119 | 164 | 141 | 133 | 175 | 135 | 112 | 110 |
| | 20-29 | 347 | 322 | 291 | 269 | 305 | 278 | 325 | 265 | 279 |
| | 30-39 | 814 | 899 | 897 | 862 | 852 | 809 | 867 | 760 | 681 |
| | 40-49 | 2,312 | 2,364 | 2,244 | 2,296 | 2,118 | 2,038 | 1,904 | 1,840 | 1,877 |
| | 50-59 | 4,383 | 4,616 | 4,718 | 4,837 | 4,633 | 4,640 | 4,595 | 4,346 | 4,517 |
| | 60-69 | 7,891 | 7,683 | 7,877 | 8,106 | 8,140 | 8,207 | 8,079 | 8,202 | 8,680 |
| | 70-79 | 11,670 | 11,718 | 12,628 | 12,332 | 12,798 | 13,268 | 13,315 | 13,6[illegible] | 14,990 |
| | 80-89 | 10,208 | 10,340 | 10,447 | 10,114 | 10,431 | 10,407 | 9,951 | 9,429 | 9,444 |
| | 90+ | 1,910 | 1,938 | 1,951 | 1,791 | 1,782 | 1,750 | 1,540 | 1,451 | 1,372 |
| | Unknown | 13 | 49 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 96 | 38 | 103 | 50 |
| Female | 0-9 | 119 | 83 | 86 | 95 | 80 | 85 | 61 | 67 | 74 |
| | 10-19 | 76 | 107 | 100 | 149 | 77 | 84 | 89 | 83 | 72 |
| | 20-29 | 274 | 264 | 277 | 253 | 279 | 279 | 254 | 270 | 301 |
| | 30-39 | 70[illegible] | 792 | 746 | 779 | 759 | 788 | 716 | 755 | 776 |
| | 40-49 | 1,918 | 1,801 | 1,774 | 1,959 | 1,692 | 1,754 | 1,616 | 1,544 | 1,619 |
| | 50-59 | 2,887 | 3,055 | 3,203 | 3,224 | 3,245 | 3,304 | 3,161 | 3,036 | 3,236 |
| | 60-69 | 5,135 | 4,986 | 5,281 | 5,543 | 5,481 | 5,554 | 5,408 | 5,772 | 6,222 |
| | 70-79 | 10,439 | 10,828 | 11,822 | 11,611 | 12,133 | 12,731 | 12,857 | 13,252 | 14,773 |
| | 80-89 | 15,858 | 16,255 | 16,608 | 16,867 | 17,004 | 17,340 | 16,708 | 16,497 | 16,823 |
| | 90+ | 5,583 | 5,653 | 5,933 | 5,650 | 5,563 | 5,596 | 5,023 | 4,837 | 4,826 |
| | Unknown | 34 | 64 | 18 | 18 | 9 | 122 | 50 | 77 | 47 |

*Count of finished admission episodes for stroke[1], broken down by age group and sex, for the years 1999-2000 to 2007-08 in England: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| Sex | Age group | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 2002-03 | 2001-02 | 2000-01 | 1999-2000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other/ Unknown | 0-9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| | 10-19 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | 20-29 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 30-39 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 40-49 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | 50-59 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| | 60-69 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 9 |
| | 70-79 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 27 |
| | 80-89 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 43 |
| | 90+ | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| | Unknown | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 44 | 1 | 1 |

[1] The following ICD-10 codes have been used:
160 Subarachnoid haemorrhage
161 Intracerebral haemorrhage
162 Other nontraumatic intracranial haemorrhage
163 Cerebral infarction
164 Stroke, not specified as haemorrhage or infarction

*Notes:*

*Ungrossed data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

*Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*Primary diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

*Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*PCT/strategic health authority (SHA) data quality*

PCT and SHA data were added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97,1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of GP practice and SHA of General practitioners practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

*Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in national health service practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

*Small numbers*

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## Swine Flu: Health Education

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of his Department's effectiveness in the distribution to households of information on swine influenza; and if he will make a statement. [279433]

**Gillian Merron:** Independent research was carried out to check the receipt of the swine flu information leaflet by households, and recall of the leaflet's information, after the household distribution had been completed. The findings confirmed that most people participating in the research when prompted recalled receiving the leaflet, and of these, the majority had read it.

Tracking research is being carried out to check awareness of the entire information campaign and knowledge and understanding of swine flu.

## Tranquillisers

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1228-30W, on tranquillisers, in what format information on the number of in-patient prescriptions dispensed is held. [279385]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The extract of the Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index held by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care shows only the total volume (in terms of packs) issued from hospital pharmacy departments in a month. Reporting the total number of packs for selected drugs has little meaning as pack sizes can differ for the same drug or between different drugs. The Department is unable to state the number of prescriptions dispensed or supplied for patients. In addition, the number of patients treated with each pack is not known as a pack could be used to treat one patient or more.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children: Databases

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the reliability of the shielding process on the ContactPoint database; and if he will make a statement. [266743]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Shielding of a small proportion of children's records on ContactPoint is an additional security measure, above the significant security arrangements that apply to the system in general. It is appropriate in cases where there might be a risk of harm if the child's location became known.

The system processes to support shielding were assessed as part of the extensive testing of ContactPoint by the ContactPoint project team and a selection of future ContactPoint users drawn from local authorities and our national partners. The system processes were confirmed as working correctly. The ContactPoint project team has also considered feedback received from local authorities undertaking pre-deployment shielding activities.

All local authorities have confirmed completion of the initial shielding phase of ContactPoint, and early adopters have begun controlled practitioner use. We continue to take a measured approach to introducing ContactPoint, which includes assessment of the experience of use of the system by Early Adopters.

### Children: Day Care

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* out-of-school and *(b)* holiday play schemes for children there were in (i) North East Lincolnshire and (ii) North Lincolnshire in each of the last five years. [279268]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Table 1 shows the number of out of school clubs in North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire in each of the last five years for which data were collected. The last year that Ofsted collected this information was 2008. Information on the number of holiday play schemes is not available as Ofsted do not collect this data.

*Table 1: Number[1,2] of out of school clubs for children under eight years of age*

| | Local authority area | |
|---|---|---|
| *Position at 31 March each year:* | *North East Lincolnshire* | *North Lincolnshire* |
| 2004 | 20 | 20 |
| 2005 | 20 | 20 |
| 2006 | 30 | 20 |
| 2007 | 30 | 20 |
| 2008 | 20 | 30 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered childcare places for children under eight years old there were in Cleethorpes constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [279269]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available by parliamentary constituency. Data were collected at local authority level only. The tables show the number of child care places in North East Lincolnshire local authority for 1997 and 2008.

*Table 1 Number[1, 2] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type of provider—North East Lincolnshire local authority area, position at 31 March 1997*

| *Type of provider* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Day nurseries | 200 |
| Playgroups and pre-schools | 900 |
| Childminders | 500 |
| Out of school clubs | 40 |
| Holiday schemes | [3] |
| Total | 1,600 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding
[3] Data not collected
*Source:*
Children's Day Care Facilities Survey

*Table 2: Number[1, 2] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care—North East Lincolnshire local authority area, position at 31 March 2008*

| *Type of care* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Full day care | 1,500 |
| Sessional day care | 300 |
| Childminders | 500 |
| Out of school day care | 700 |
| Crèche day care | 200 |
| Total | 3,100 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding
*Source:*
Ofsted

Ofsted have collected information on the number of registered child care places available to children aged eight and under on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report 'Registered Childcare Providers and Places, March 2009', which is available on their website

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Registered-childcare-providers-and-places-in-England-December-2008-onwards

### Children: Protection

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of parents who were in care who have had their children removed from them as a result of care proceedings in the last 10 years. [278327]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 9 June 2009]:* The Department holds no data on the number of parents who were in care, who have subsequently had their children removed from their care as a result of care proceedings so cannot provide an estimate of this.

The decision to take a child into care is never an easy one, and the decision to make a care order is taken by the courts. The parent's background should not be a factor. Courts must be satisfied the threshold criteria are met before it can make a care order. The threshold criteria are that the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm and that is attributable to the care given to the child or likely to be given to the child, if the order were not made.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280569]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The official responsible for the energy efficiency for the Department for Children, Schools and Families estate is Janet Young, Deputy Director for Estates and Facilities Management Division.

### GCSE

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of GCSE entrants achieved each grade in *(a)* history, *(b)* citizenship, *(c)* physics, *(d)* English and *(e)* mathematics in each of the last five years. [280441]

**Mr. Coaker:** Numbers and proportions of GCSE entrants who achieved each grade in history, citizenship, physics, English and mathematics in each of the last five years can be found in the following publications:

In publications for 2004/05 to 2007/08, information regarding history, physics, English and mathematics is on table 13 and figures for citizenship are in table 15.

*GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2007/08 (Revised)*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/index.shtml

*GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised)*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

*GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2005/06 (Revised)*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml

*GCSE and Equivalent Results and Associated Value Added Measures in England 2004/05 (Final)*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000664/index.shtml

In the publication for 2003/04 information regarding history, physics, English and mathematics is on table 12 and figures for citizenship are in table 14.

*GCSE and Equivalent Results for Young People in England, 2003/04 (Final)*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000585/contents.shtml

### Grammar Schools: Admissions

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much has been spent from the public purse on petitioning and balloting procedures in relation to selective admission arrangements for grammar schools since the coming into force of the provisions of the Education (Grammar School Ballots) Regulations 1998; [280122]

(2) what costs his Department has incurred in respect of retaining the services of the Electoral Reform Society for *(a)* petitions and *(b)* ballots on selective admission arrangements to grammar schools. [280152]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The report to Ministers on the grammar schools' ballot system was released in August 2007. It outlines annual expenditure, including the administrative costs—to date, these together have totalled £2.32 million.

### Integrated Children's System

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 540-41W, on the integrated children's system (ICS), who developed the requirements for local authorities to procure systems from IT suppliers to support the delivery of the model. [271470]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The ICS requirements were originally produced as part of the Quality Protects Management Information project, by a team comprising Department of Health (latterly, following machinery of government changes, Department for Education and Skills) officials, local authority officers, and academics working in collaboration. Frontline social workers and managers were involved in development through consultative workshops and local trialling of materials. Commercial suppliers of children's social care systems were also consulted and informed.

In order to learn about the processes involved in the provision of children's social care services the Department of Health consulted with local authorities and policy specialists. This enabled them to structure the broad information requirements in a logical, systematic way.

The requirements have been subsequently updated by the DCSF, through a collaboration of policy and practice advisers with frontline social work experience and contracted specialists with knowledge of the production of industry-standard requirements documentation. The most recent requirements have taken account of technical queries raised at earlier stages by local authority officers, and were partly informed by a dedicated workshop with a number of local authority officers involved in ICS implementation.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [279817]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The education opportunities presented by the 2012 Games are being used to build on and add value to existing activity being undertaken by the DCSF. There are 1.3 full-time equivalent members of staff allocated to co-ordinating this work. They deal with all aspects of project management, legacy planning and project oversight. Future staffing levels for this work are expected to remain at this level.

The DCSF is supported in the delivery of the education legacy plan by an extensive range of strategic and delivery partners, such as the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, DIUS and the Government Olympic Executive, with some working with us across all elements of the plan, others on specific projects.

### Play: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated for children's play in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport in 2009-10. [279770]

**Mr. Coaker:** Tameside has been allocated £393,306 capital funding and £19,802 revenue funding for 2009-10.

Stockport has been allocated £528,703 capital funding and £26,991 revenue funding for 2009-10.

Tameside began receiving play funding from April 2008, as part of the first wave of the children's plan play capital investment programme. The National Play Strategy, which was published in December 2008, announced that Government would be accelerating the capital programme so that all of the remaining 89 top tier local authorities in England would receive funding from April 2009 as wave two of the investment programme. This means that all 152 local authorities will be receiving play capital, and associated revenue, funding during the 2009-10 financial year. Stockport has joined the programme in this second wave.

### Pre-school Education: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered childcare places for children under eight years old there are in Milton Keynes. [279719]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Table 1: Number[1, 2, 3] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care—Milton Keynes local authority area, position at 31 March 2009*

| *Type of care* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Child minders | 2,100 |
| Child care on non-domestic premises | 6,900 |
| Child care on domestic premises | * |
| Home child carer | n/a |
| Total | 9,000 |

* = Less than 5.
n/a = Not available.
[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted.
[3] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

Ofsted have collected information on the number of registered child care places available to children aged eight and under on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, March 2009", which is available on their website:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Registered-childcare-providers-and-places-in-England-December-2008-onwards

### Pupil Referral Units

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much contact time pupils of each age in pupil referral units received on average in the latest period for which figures are available. [266830]

**Mr. Coaker:** Reliable information on contact time is not available.

Work is underway to develop pupil level data collections for pupils in pupil referral units, and this should address the current reliability issues.

### Pupils: Disadvantaged

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals achieved level 4 or above in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics in Key Stage 2 tests in each year since 2005. [277959]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The number and proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals that achieved level 4 or above in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics in key stage 2 tests in the school year 2007/08 can be found in Tables 6 and 7 of the Statistical First Release 'Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2007/08, January 2009 (Provisional)' at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000822/index.shtml

Information for the school year 2006/07 can be found in tables 5 and 6 of the Statistical First Release 'National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07' at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

Information for the school year 2005/06 can be found in tables 1 and 2 of the Statistical First Release 'National Curriculum Assessments, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2005/06' at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000708/index.shtml

### School Meals

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on participation in the EU School Fruit scheme. [277233]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** No decision has yet been made regarding participation in the EU School Fruit Scheme. In consultation with the Department for Health we are checking implementation regulations to help form our decision.

### Schools: Standards

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what results each local authority in England achieved against the criteria included in the National Challenge in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what percentage of children met the criteria in each such year; what percentage of children were entitled to free school meals in each local education authority (LEA) in each such year, ranked from highest to lowest; what rank each authority achieved in each of the criteria included in the National Challenge; and for each local education authority what its rank order number was against the *(a)* National Challenge and *(b)* free school meals criterion. [273188]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The current National Challenge set to each maintained mainstream schools is for more than 30 per cent. of their Key Stage 4 cohort to achieve five or more GCSEs at A*-C or the equivalent including the subjects of English and mathematics.

This indicator is available only for 2006 and onwards although data for free school meals eligibility are available for the requested years.

The available data have been placed in the House Libraries.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools which achieved a rating of good or outstanding in their last Ofsted inspection received a rating of satisfactory or inadequate for behaviour. [274586]

**Mr. Coaker:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, 13 May 2009:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The 'inadequate' inspection outcome was introduced in September 2005 as part of a four-point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory, inadequate. Therefore, only schools which have been inspected under the current inspection framework have been included in this analysis.

Since the introduction of the current framework, no schools have been judged to have outstanding or good overall effectiveness and inadequate behaviour. One school was judged to have outstanding overall effectiveness and satisfactory behaviour at its most recent inspection, while 185 schools were judged to have good overall effectiveness and satisfactory behaviour at their most recent inspection.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

### Sure Start Programme: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have enrolled in Sure Start in each year since 2003. [280219]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Essex county council currently has 60 Sure Start Children's Centres offering access to services to around 49,722 children under five and their families. In Castle Point borough council there are three centres offering services to approximately 2,828 children. The Department does not hold information centrally on how many children have enrolled in Sure Start in each year since 2003.

### Young People: Databases

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* records and *(b)* data fields there are in (i) the National Pupil Database, (ii) ContactPoint, (iii) the Common Assessment Framework and eCAF, (iv) the Integrated Children's System, (v) the Wiring Up Youth Justice system, (vi) the Youth Offender Information System, (vii) RAISE, (viii) the Universal Monitoring and Evaluation Information System, (ix) the ASSET Young Offender Assessment Profile and (x) Onset. [265742]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families is responsible for (i) the National Pupil Database, (ii) ContactPoint, (iii) the Common Assessment Framework and eCAF, and (iv) the Integrated Children's System.

The YJB, DCSF and MOJ jointly sponsor Wiring Up Youth Justice (v), which is a programme, not a system for holding data. The Youth Offender Information System (vi), RAISE (vii), and the Universal Monitoring and Evaluation Information System (viii), are commercially supplied, local authority based systems, which the YJB monitors and has some limited influence on. The Youth Justice Board, an executive agency jointly sponsored by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice, is responsible for the ASSET Young Offender Assessment Profile (xi) and Onset (x), which are national assessment tools, and not electronic systems for holding data.

I am able to provide the following information.

*National Pupil Database*

As an indication of the number of records in The National Pupil Database, there were around 7.3 million full-time equivalent pupils in state funded primary, secondary and special schools in 2008.

The National Pupil Database is a longitudinal database linking pupil and student characteristics to school and college learning aims and attainment information for all children in maintained schools in England since 2002. The National Pupil Database also holds individual-pupil level attainment data for pupils in non-maintained and independent schools who partake in the tests or examinations.

The National Pupil Database holds pupil and school characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity, attendance and exclusions (sourced from the School Census) for maintained schools only, matched to pupil-level attainment data (Foundation Stage Profile, Key Stage assessments and external examinations) collected from schools and local authorities by the Department, the National Assessment Agency and awarding bodies. The number of data items included for each pupil will depend on where they are in the education cycle and on which tests and examinations they have taken.

*ContactPoint*

In March 2009 there were 12.4 million records on ContactPoint with a further 445 thousand records in the archive. ContactPoint has a number of data fields

which contain information supplied by each data source. Some fields can hold multiple entries, for example where two addresses are known. Some fields hold information calculated by the system rather than supplied by data sources and some are considered metadata, such as verification levels and the date last updated.

*eCAF*

The national eCAF system is currently under development and not yet at the stage where *(a)* the number of records or *(b)* the number of data fields that will be held in the system can be defined.

*The Integrated Children's System*

The Integrated Children's System is a set of requirements that guide local authorities in implementing their local children's social care case management systems. Each local authority is separately responsible for its own IT systems and case records, and information on these is not held centrally.

*Wiring Up Youth Justice programme*

The Wiring Up Youth Justice programme (WuYJ) is a business change programme of projects that improves the ability of YOTs, the YJB and the secure estate to electronically access and exchange information that is already held in existing case management systems. As such, it is not a system where data is stored. However, WuYJ is developing the Youth Justice Management Information System, which from 2009/10 will store limited data extracted by YOTs from UMIS, YOIS and RAISE. It is replacing the Themis system which previously carried out this function.

*The Youth Offending Information System*

The Youth Offending Information System (YOIS) is a case management system developed and marketed by CACI (formerly Social Software Ltd), and made available to local authorities to purchase on behalf of their youth offending teams. Over one hundred local authorities have purchased licences to use this system.

*RAISE*

The RAISE system (also known as Careworks YOT) is a case management system developed and marketed by Careworks Ltd. and made available to local authorities to purchase on behalf of their youth offending teams. Over 40 local authorities have purchased licences to use this system.

*Universal Monitoring and Evaluation Information System (UMIS)*

UMIS is an advanced information management system developed and marketed by CACI (formerly Social Software Ltd.) for use by all services involved in the field of prevention. It records the whole intervention process from observations and concerns, through to referral, assessment, panel, intervention and evaluation, providing an overview of the work undertaken with the child, young person or family so this can be evaluated on an ongoing basis and help point to how better outcomes can be achieved in the future.

*Asset*

Research commissioned by the Youth Justice Board has established the main risk factors that lead to youth offending and also the protective factors that can prevent it. Asset provides a common, structured framework for assessment of all young people involved in the criminal justice system. It is a standard national assessment tool of the factors contributing to a young person's offending. Asset details are recorded on YOIS or RAISE. Asset is a national assessment tool, not a system.

*Onset*

The Onset referral and assessment framework was designed by the Centre for Criminological Research, University of Oxford for the YJB and was piloted by the 13 pilot youth inclusion and support panels.

Onset promotes the Youth Justice Board's prevention strategy by helping to identify risk factors to be reduced and protective factors to be enhanced. It also provides information which might be helpful in selecting appropriate interventions for those identified as needing early intervention.

When collated, the information on Onset can be used for monitoring, as well as targeting specific sub-groups where applicable, or providing progress data to steering groups. The new prevention counting rules require all Youth Justice Board-funded prevention programmes to use Onset as the basis for their referral and assessment mechanisms. Onset details are recorded on UMIS and RAISE. Onset is a national assessment tool, not a system.

More detailed information about these systems is not held centrally and it would far exceed the cost threshold to collect and collate it.

## JUSTICE

### Civil Service Bill: Draft

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his latest timetable is for a Civil Service Bill. [276391]

**Mr. Wills:** The draft Constitutional Renewal Bill contained provisions in respect of the civil service. We anticipate that the Bill will be introduced before the summer recess for carry-over into the next parliamentary session.

**John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the latest timetable is for the parliamentary stages of a Civil Service Bill. [276403]

**Mr. Wills:** The draft Constitutional Renewal Bill contained provisions in respect of the civil service. We anticipate that the Bill will be introduced before the summer recess for carry-over into the next parliamentary session.

### Coroners: Operating Costs

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of the operation of coroners' courts in each of the last five years. [279650]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Ministry of Justice does not have any operational responsibility for the coroner service. The costs of operating coroners' courts are shared between coroners' respective local authorities and police authorities, and no costing information is kept centrally by this Department. Data collected by Communities and Local Government give total revenue spending by local authorities on the coroner service over the last five years as:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 46.00 |
| 2004-05 | 50.98 |
| 2005-06 | 54.21 |
| 2006-07 | 59.08 |
| 2007-08 | 66.26 |

These figures do not include capital spending by local authorities or costs incurred by police forces, for which no data are available.

### Coroners: South West

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the resources available to coroners' offices in the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority area. [280268]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Ministry of Justice does not have operational responsibility for the coroner service and does not undertake assessments of resources available to coroners. This is a matter for individual coroners to negotiate with their local and police authorities.

Nevertheless discussions are taking place in Devon and Cornwall including for example with Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) over the possibility of using court facilities.

### Crime Prevention: Finance

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of his Department's funding was allocated to the Children's Fund for youth crime prevention in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [279227]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

Up to 2005-06 there was a requirement for Children's Fund Partnerships to allocate 25 per cent. of their expenditure to youth crime projects. The total funding for the Children's Fund for the period 2005-06 was £146 million. Therefore, £36.5 million of these funds were allocated to youth crime prevention. In 2006-07 the requirement of the 25 per cent. quota was discontinued. Since April 2008 funding has been distributed to local authorities and pooled with other funding via the Area Based Grant. Directing funding through local authorities gives local areas the freedom and flexibility to base spending decisions on local circumstances and the needs of local communities.

### Environmental Protection Act 1990

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 have been sought in each of the last 10 years; and how many such prosecutions were successful. [280258]

**Claire Ward:** The number of defendants who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offence of 'Depositing litter' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 sec.87, in England and Wales, 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the table.



These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Number of defendants who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offence of 'Depositing litter' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 sec. 87, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007[1, 2]*

| | Proceeded against | Found guilty |
|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 494 | 377 |
| 1999 | 501 | 390 |
| 2000[3] | 466 | 333 |
| 2001 | 457 | 334 |
| 2002 | 332 | 256 |
| 2003 | 551 | 406 |
| 2004 | 908 | 645 |
| 2005 | 1,447 | 1,017 |
| 2006 | 2,022 | 1,340 |
| 2007 | 3,063 | 2,303 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were able to submit only sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

*Source:*
OCJR—E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

### HM Courts Service: Consultants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much HM Courts Service spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [280342]

**Bridget Prentice:** HMCS came into existence in April 2005 and therefore figures prior to this date are not available.

| *Consultancy spend full year* | *HMCS (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 4.9 |
| 2006-07 | 3.3 |
| 2007-08 | 4.7 |

Data for April 2008 to March 2009 are currently unavailable. A manual data collection exercise for this period is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2009 with a target date for the availability of the data set of 31 October 2009.

## Parole Board

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases the Parole Board considered in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; [279233]

(2) how many and what proportion of offenders were granted oral hearings by the Parole Board in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; [279234]

(3) how many of the offenders who were granted oral hearings by the Parole Board were subsequently granted parole in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [279235]

**Mr. Straw:** In 2007-08 the Parole Board considered a total of 31,172 cases. Approximately 8 per cent. were considered by oral hearing, which equates to 2,072 three-member hearings and 459 one-member hearings. Of those a total of 16 per cent. of offenders were recommended for release.

In 2008-09 the Parole Board considered a total of 28,596 cases. Approximately 10 per cent. were considered by oral hearing, which equates to 2,335 three-member hearings and 422 one-member hearings. Of those a total of 16 per cent. of offenders were recommended for release.

## Prisoners Release

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were granted compassionate release in each of the last five years. [279880]

**Mr. Straw:** The numbers of prisoners who were granted permanent early release on compassionate grounds in each of the last five years is shown in the following tables. The data are split between prisoners serving fixed-term sentences (where the data are collected by calendar year) and those serving indeterminate sentences (where the data are collected by financial year).

*Determinate sentenced prisoners*

| | *Fixed-term prisoners* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 4 |
| 2005 | 11 |
| 2006 | 7 |
| 2007 | 5 |
| 2008 | 7 |
| Total | 34 |

*Indeterminate sentenced prisoners*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 4 |
| 2005-06 | 2 |
| 2006-07 | 2 |
| 2007-08 | 4 |
| 2008-09 | 2 |
| Total | 14 |

These figures have been drawn from internal records and the Public Protection Unit Database in the National Offender Management Service. As with any large scale recording systems, they are subject to possible errors with data migration and processing.

## Restorative Justice

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* community and *(b)* custody caseload of the probation service was in March in each of the last five financial years. [279238]

**Mr. Straw:** The total community and pre-release custodial offender caseload for England and Wales as at 31 March in each of the last five years was as follows:

| | *Supervised in community*[1] | *Supervised in custody* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 144,076 | 61,110 |
| 2005 | 151,443 | 61,799 |
| 2006 | 166,557 | 63,697 |
| 2007 | 173,400 | 66,347 |
| 2008 | 178,652 | 67,535 |

[1] Includes those supervised on court orders as well as post-release supervision.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Young Offenders: Crimes of Violence

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people under 21 years old who were convicted of *(a)* grievous bodily harm and *(b)* violent disorder under the provisions of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 served less than (i) 12 months and (ii) 18 months in custody in the last three years; [278926]

(2) how many people under 18 years old who were convicted of *(a)* grievous bodily harm and *(b)* violent disorder under the provisions of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 served less than (i) 12 months and (ii) 18 months in custody in the last three years. [278927]

**Maria Eagle:** The data provided show the number of offenders aged under 18 and between 18 and 20 sentenced to immediate custody and the length of the custodial sentence, in England and Wales. The data are for the offences of grievous bodily harm or violent disorder where such an offence was the principal offence for which the offender was sentenced. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Almost all custodial sentences for offenders under 21 are defined under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 introduced indeterminate sentences for public protection for grievous bodily harm and violent disorder from 4 April 2005, which are also included in the tables.

*Offenders aged under 18 and between 18 and 20 sentenced to immediate custody for grievous bodily harm[1] and violent disorder, between 2005-07*

| *Under 18s sentenced to immediate custody* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Grievous bodily harm* | | | |
| Up to 3 months | n/a | n/a | n/a |

*Offenders aged under 18 and between 18 and 20 sentenced to immediate custody for grievous bodily harm[1] and violent disorder, between 2005-07*

*Under 18s sentenced to immediate custody*

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Over 3 up to 6 months | 56 | 63 | 51 |
| Over 6 up to 12 months | 121 | 119 | 105 |
| Over 12 up to 18 months | 40 | 54 | 61 |
| Over 18 up to 3 years | 70 | 76 | 73 |
| Over 3 up to 4 years | 15 | 12 | 10 |
| 4 years | 14 | 10 | 11 |
| Over 4 including 5 years | 7 | 13 | 15 |
| Over 5 years including indeterminate | 11 | 13 | 24 |
| Total | 334 | 360 | 350 |
| *Violent disorder* | | | |
| Up to 3 months | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Over 3 up to 6 months | 27 | 19 | 13 |
| Over 6 up to 12months | 18 | 15 | 17 |
| Over 12 up to 18 months | 23 | 17 | 25 |
| Over 18 up to 3 years | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Over 3 up to 4 years | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 years | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 4 including 5 years | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 5 years including indeterminate | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 69 | 53 | 57 |

*Offenders aged between 18 and 20*

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Grievous bodily harm* | | | |
| Up to 3 months | 10 | 3 | 7 |
| Over 3 up to 6 months | 55 | 61 | 31 |
| Over 6 up to 12 months | 66 | 62 | 87 |
| Over 12 up to 18 months | 203 | 239 | 238 |
| Over 18 up to 3 years | 243 | 221 | 267 |
| Over 3 up to 4 years | 55 | 33 | 25 |
| 4 years | 48 | 24 | 48 |
| Over 4 including 5 years | 49 | 35 | 48 |
| Over 5 years including indeterminate | 58 | 107 | 117 |
| Total | 787 | 785 | 866 |
| *Violent disorder* | | | |
| Up to 3 months | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Over 3 up to 6 months | 14 | 13 | 14 |
| Over 6 up to 12 months | 35 | 14 | 28 |
| Over 12 up to 18 months | 61 | 43 | 57 |
| Over 18 up to 3 years | 33 | 36 | 25 |
| Over 3 up to 4 years | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 4years | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| Over 4 including 5 years | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Over 5 years including indeterminate | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 154 | 116 | 128 |

n/a = Not applicable, the minimum term for a detention and training order for an offender aged under 18 is three months.

[1] Offences of: Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, Causing explosion or casting corrosive fluids with intent to do grievous bodily harm, malicious wounding, racially aggravated malicious wounding or GBH, religiously aggravated wounding or GBH, racially or religiously aggravated wounding or GBH.

*Notes:*

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Sentencing data are given in this answer because data on length of time served are not collected by specific offence.

If the offence was committed on or after 4 April 2005, release arrangements are covered by the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) 2003, where either a standard determinate sentence, Extended Sentence for Public Protection or Imprisonment for Public Protection would apply. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 amended the release arrangements for certain sentences from the CJA 2003. Life sentence prisoners are released under the terms of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997.

Average time served in prison for young offenders can be found in table 9.2 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007 available at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people under 21 years old in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point who were convicted of (i) grievous bodily harm and (ii) violent disorder under the provisions of the Powers of Criminal Court (Sentencing) Act 2000 served less than (1) 12 months and (2) 18 months in custody in each of the last five years; [279279]

(2) how many people under 18 years old in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point who were convicted of (i) grievous bodily harm and (ii) violent disorder under the provisions of the Powers of Criminal Court (Sentencing) Act 2000 served less than (A) 12 months and (B) 18 months in custody in each of the last five years. [280224]

**Maria Eagle:** The data provided show the number of offenders aged under 18 and between 18 and 20 sentenced to immediate custody and the length of the custodial sentence, in Essex police force area. Data are not available for Castle Point. The data are for the offences of grievous bodily harm or violent disorder where such an offence was the principal offence for which the offender was sentenced. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Almost all custodial sentences for offenders under 21 are defined under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 introduced indeterminate sentences for public protection for grievous bodily harm and violent disorder from 4 April 2005, which are also included in the table.

*Offenders aged under 18 and 18-20 sentenced to immediate custody for grievous bodily harm[1] or violent disorder[2] by length of sentence, Essex police force area, 2003-07*

| | *Under 18's* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| *Grievous bodily harm* | | | | | |
| Up to 3 months | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Over 3 up to 6 months | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Over 6 up to 12 months | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Over 12 up to 18 months | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Over 18 up to 3 years | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Over 3 up to 4 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 4 including 5 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Offenders aged under 18 and 18-20 sentenced to immediate custody for grievous bodily harm[1] or violent disorder[2] by length of sentence, Essex police force area, 2003-07*

| | *Under 18's* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Over 5 years including indeterminate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| *Violent disorder* | | | | | |
| Up to 3 months | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 3 up to 6 months | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 6 up to 12 months | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 12 up to 18 months | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 18 up to 3 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 3 up to 4 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 4 Including 5 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 5 years including indeterminate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

| | *18-20 year olds* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| *Grievous bodily harm* | | | | | |
| Up to 3 months | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Over 3 up to 6 months | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Over 6 up to 12 months | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Over 12 up to 18 months | 4 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 3 |
| Over 18 up to 3 years | 7 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Over 3 up to 4 years | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 4 years | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Over 4 including 5 years | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 5 years including indeterminate | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 16 | 9 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| *Violent disorder* | | | | | |
| Up to 3 months | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 3 up to 6 months | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 6 up to 12 months | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 12 up to 18 months | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 18 up to 3 years | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 3 up to 4 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 4 including 5 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 5 years including indeterminate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

[1] Offences of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Causing explosion or casting corrosive fluids with intent to do grievous bodily harm, malicious wounding, racially aggravated malicious wounding or GBH, religiously aggravated wounding or GBH, racially or religiously aggravated wounding or GBH.
[2] Public Order Act 1986 sec. 2

*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Sentencing data are given in this answer because data on length of time served are not collected by specific offence.

If the offence was committed on or after the 4 April 2005, release arrangements are covered by the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) 2003, where either a standard determinate sentence, extended sentence for public protection or imprisonment for public protection would apply. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 amended the release arrangements for certain sentences from the CJA 2003. Life sentence prisoners are released under the terms of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997.

Average time served in prison for young offenders can be found in table 9.2 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007 available at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Adult Education: Finance

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding he plans to allocate to adult learning centres in Derbyshire in 2009-10. [278776]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 9 June 2009]:* The Government are investing £5 billion in adult skills in 2009-10; this investment will fund a record three million adult learners.

In addition to this, in the light of the economic downturn we have made available a significant package of support, focused on providing opportunities for those out of work to gain the skills to enter sustainable employment.

This includes £83 million to fund an additional 75,000 further education (FE) places over the next two years for those who have been out of work for six months or longer. FE providers in Derbyshire have successfully bid for £1.6 million of this package. We are also investing £100 million to support around 70,000 places in employment-focused activity for those out of work or under notice of redundancy. £3 million of this investment is planned to support 2,200 learners on response to redundancy programmes in Derbyshire.

Nationally, we also spend £210 million per year on informal adult learning, which can be delivered through a range of local providers.

The former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills published the Learning Revolution White Paper in March 09 which sets out a cross-Government strategy for informal learning in the 21st Century, with £30 million additional spend in 2009-10.

Further, for 2009-10 we are providing £21.5 million to support the key role that trade union and their union learning representatives can play in driving up demand for learning and skills in the workplace.

### Aviation: Government Assistance

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the home country rule in relation to the provision of financial support on aircraft sales. [277260]

**Ian Lucas:** To date I have not had any discussions with my EU counterparts on the so called "home country rule" in relation to the provision of financial support on aircraft sales.

## Basic Skills

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the use of languages other than English and Welsh in advertising skills courses. [274061]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills do not advertise skills courses.

Responsibility for advertising skills courses rest with the colleges or course providers.

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase skills levels amongst 18 to 24 year-olds. [278331]

**Kevin Brennan:** We now have the highest-ever level of young adults participating in learning. We are taking a joined-up approach across government to ensure that all young adults have the skills they need to obtain a meaningful job with prospects.

Young adults up to the age of 25 are entitled to provision leading up to and including a full Level 3 qualification, which can be taken up through a wide range of learning provision. We are also widening participation in higher education, to ensure that all those with the potential and merit to benefit from HE are able and willing to do so.

Government have rescued and expanded apprenticeships over the last 10 years. We are providing over £1 billion of investment in apprenticeships for young people and adults in this financial year, supporting over 250,000 starts.

The Budget announced a guaranteed offer of pre-employment training places for young people age 18-24 who have been unemployed for 12 months. Over £120 million of new money will be available in England and the whole package is worth £1.7 billion. £83 million is also available to fund an extra 75,000 new work-focused training opportunities for those who have been unemployed for six months or more.

Young people over 18 on out-of-work benefits are already subject to conditionality, and we are working with the Department for Work and Pensions to deliver an integrated employment and skills service so that those on benefits will be given extra help to gain the skills they need and to find work. The service includes early skills screening of 18 to 24-year-olds, piloting of mandatory skills health checks, as well as basic skills and job-focused provision. We are also creating a new adult advancement and careers service offering information, advice and guidance.

## Better Regulation Executive and Local Better Regulation Office: Pay

**John Penrose:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much and what proportion of the annual budget for the *(a)* Better Regulation Executive and *(b)* Local Better Regulation Office has been spent on staff costs in each year since inception. [276292]

**Ian Lucas:** The Better Regulation Executive (BRE) was established in May 2005. The staff costs were £4.6 million in 2005/06 (85 per cent. of total spend); £5.6 million in 2006/07 (88 per cent.); £6.4 million in 2007/08 (94 per cent.); and £6.0 million in 2008/09 (87 per cent.).

The Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) was established in September 2007. The staff costs were £0.8 million in 2007/08 and £1.7 million in 2008/09. Staff costs accounted for 50 per cent. and 37 per cent. of total spend respectively.

The 2007/08 LBRO figures account for a partial financial year from September 2007-March 2008 and reflect the fact that LBRO was not yet fully staffed.

Staff costs include salaries and other costs directly associated with staff in post.

## Building Colleges for the Future Programme

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the capacity of *(a)* the Skills Funding Agency, *(b)* the Young People's Learning Agency and *(c)* local authorities to continue the system for prioritising further education capital projects once they take on functions of the Learning and Skills Council. [277847]

**Kevin Brennan:** The structures that will come into place following the dissolution of the LSC have been designed to ensure all the organisations have the capacity to discharge their responsibilities including those related to capital projects. We are working closely with the LSC to ensure a smooth transition and it is taking forward a transition plan to implement shadow structures by September 2009.

## Climate Change

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps his Department has taken to adapt to climate change in the last two years; [277645]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to adapt to climate change in 2009 to date. [278295]

**Mr. Lammy:** All Departments are actively involved in the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which aims to help society adapt to climate change. The role of the programme is to develop and provide a comprehensive evidence base including adaptation tools, to raise awareness of the need to adapt, to measure success and to work across Government at all levels to embed adaptation. Further details about the programme's work can be found at

www.defra.gov.uk/adaptation.

As well as working together to tackle issues that affect all departments and their work, each Government Department is adapting to climate change in its own operations and policies.

Over the last two years DIUS has built upon the sustainable action plan, which sets out how the Department contributes to addressing climate change. A Science and Innovation White Paper has been published, including proposals on fostering private and public sector innovation

which will help to identify technological and social solutions needed for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

DIUS has supported the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Learning and Skills Council in putting sustainability at the centre of their investment strategies.

DIUS has funded the Research Councils' "Living with Environmental Change" (LWEC) initiative, a programme to increase resilience to and reduce costs of, environmental change, addressing the associated pressures on natural resources, ecosystem services, economic growth and social progress.

DIUS has also supported the Research Councils' Energy Programme, bringing together energy-related research and training across the councils to address climate change and security of energy supply and to implement the Science and Innovation White Paper proposals on fostering private and public sector innovation.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minster of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277720]

**Mr. Lammy:** It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings over the next three years. It has, however, been shown in the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change that timely and well-targeted climate adaptation measures will yield benefits in excess of their costs. The main rationale for investment to address climate risk will be to reduce the UK's vulnerability to longer-term climate change impacts.

The Government are undertaking a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Economic Analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament within three years of the Climate Change Act coming in to force.

### Consumer Credit: Licensing

**John Penrose:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies whose consumer credit licence had expired were still trading while awaiting a decision on renewal of the licence in each month since January 1997; and for how long on average each such company had been waiting in each of those months. [277310]

**Kevin Brennan:** The OFT does not routinely hold all the data requested.

In accordance with section 29 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, licences submitted for renewal prior to their expiry date will continue in force until the OFT decision on its application and, if there is an appeal against the OFT decision, until the appeals process is completed.

Since December 2008, when the OFT established a dedicated team to process and allocate high-risk credit applications, the average processing time for high risk renewal applications has been 59 working days from the date the application was received. This is in line with the OFT's target of processing 75 per cent. of applications within 90 days.

**John Penrose:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the maximum length of time is that a company which requires a consumer credit licence may continue to trade without a licence while awaiting a decision from the Office of Fair Trading on licence renewal. [277508]

**Kevin Brennan:** No business may legally engage in Consumer Credit Act regulated activities without a consumer credit licence.

In accordance with section 29 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, licences submitted for renewal prior to their expiry date will continue in force until the OFT decision on its application and, if there is an appeal against the OFT decision, until the appeals process is completed.

The OFT aims to process 75 per cent. of applications for high risk category activities within 90 days. Cases where further investigation is required or where regulatory action such as the imposition of requirements is considered appropriate will take more than 90 days.

### Data Service

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the functions of the Data Service are in relation to the provision of information for further education; and if he will make a statement. [278246]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Data Service was announced in the FE Reform White Paper in March 2006 and launched in April 2008 to become the single authoritative source of data for post-16 further education, with sole responsibility for its collection and dissemination.

It is an independently managed entity, formed from and still within the Learning and Skills Council. It is responsible for providing a service to the whole FE Sector and reports to a steering group with representation from across the FE sector.

The Data Service brings together a range of functions related to data collection and dissemination and is building to a mature service able to support all data collection and primary dissemination activities required for the academic year 2010-11. The Data Service collects a range of information including data from providers on learners and learning aims, for operational purposes. Data includes information on learners in FE colleges, Train to Gain and Apprenticeships collected via the Individualised Learner Record.

The Data Service works closely with the Department on the production and dissemination of publicly available statistical information, including a series of National Statistics publications, the most recent of which was released on 26 March 2009:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrmar09/

### Departmental Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect

of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278731]

**Kevin Brennan:** None.

### Departmental Training

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 697W, on departmental training, which Minister took part in *(a)* training on the European Union, *(b)* training on Cabinet Committees, *(c)* foreign language lessons and *(d)* media training; what each course involved; when each course took place; and what the total cost of each session was. [268566]

**Kevin Brennan:** Identifying Ministers who undertake training would, or would be likely to, discourage participation in future training sessions, acting as a disincentive for Ministers to undertake formal professional development.

The Cabinet Committee and European Union courses incurred no cost to the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills. The short briefing session on each topic was delivered by the National School of Government in September 2008. The first covered an overview of cabinet committee processes. The EU session similarly looked at structures, processes hierarchy and the relationship with Whitehall.

The foreign language lessons have cost £1,343 to date. These lessons in Italian have taken place weekly since October 2008.

The media training course involved two sessions in April 2008. The overall cost for the two sessions was £1,276. The course looked at developing skills to communicate the Minister's remit in a particular area.

All of these courses were one-to-one sessions delivered to Ministers.

### Education: Civil Service Agencies

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the final *(a)* administrative, *(b)* recruitment, *(c)* staffing, *(d)* building, *(e)* ICT and *(f)* marketing and advertising costs of establishing the (i) Skills Funding Agency, (ii) Young People's Learning Agency, (iii) National Apprenticeship Service and (iv) Adult Advancement and Careers Service; and what such costs had been incurred on the latest date for which figures are available. [275073]

**Kevin Brennan:** In designing the new structures we are working to an administration budget which is set at the same level as the LSC currently operates within. There will be some short term costs associated with the transition to the new arrangements, and work is ongoing to provide robust estimates of these.

Ensuring that staff transfers are consistent with TUPE, Cabinet Office guidance and employment legislation will cost roughly £3 million. We also estimate it will cost around £2 million to £3 million to secure broad comparability of pensions.

On premises, initial modelling indicates that the cost of reducing the estate size could be around £32 million, but that annual savings of up to £17 million could be achieved thereafter.

The exact costs will depend on a range of factors and the LSC is drawing up a strategy to identify the most cost effective option for each part of the estate. We also expect further savings to be realised through rationalisation of IT systems and better operation of shared services.

There will be costs associated with advertising and recruitment of the new chief executive posts. For the chief executive of the National Apprenticeship Service they were approximately £78,000. Recruitment of the chief executive of Skills Funding and the chief executive of the Young People's Learning Agency is still under way. Most other staff will transfer through an internal matching process. We do not anticipate a significant shortfall in numbers, and any associated recruitment costs are expected to be minimal.

This Department, and the Department for Children, Schools and Families, are continuing to refine the transition costs as part of the detailed design work.

### Exports: Government Assistance

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many British businesses UK Trade and Investment have assisted in exporting for the first time in each of the last 36 months. [277787]

**Ian Lucas:** Data for the past three years are available from UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) Performance and Impact Monitoring Survey (PIMS). Results reported in March 2009 for the previous year confirm that UKTI assisted some 20,700 businesses to exploit opportunities in overseas markets. The survey sample indicates that some 2,200 of these were not yet exporting and some 3,500 had been exporting for less than two years, at the time of interview.

Equivalent figures for the two previous years are:

2007-08: some 15,900 businesses assisted, of which some 1,100 were not yet exporting and some 2,700 had been exporting for less than two years;

2006-07: some 15,000 businesses assisted, of which some 1,200 were not yet exporting and some 2,400 had been exporting for less than two years.

### Fire and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provisions of the Fire and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988. [277854]

**Kevin Brennan:** In 2000, DTI published a report: "Effectiveness of the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988". Copies of this were placed in the libraries of the House. The report showed that, at a conservative estimate, the Regulations had saved at least 710 lives (1,860 when additional factors are taken into consideration) and prevented at least 5,770 injuries from 1988 to 1997. In March this year, this Department commissioned Greenstreet Berman Ltd. to research the current effectiveness of the regulations. Their report should be completed by autumn 2009.

## Higher Education: Cleethorpes

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents of Cleethorpes constituency were in higher education in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2007-08. [279449]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest available information is shown in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

*Enrolments[1] from Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency[2] UK higher education institutions academic years 1997/98 and 2007/08*

| *Academic year* | *Enrolments* |
|---|---|
| 1997/98 | 1,685 |
| 2007/08 | 1,920 |

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.
[2] Parliamentary constituency is defined by full and valid home postcodes recorded on the HESA student record.
*Note:*
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

## Learning and Skills Council

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who from his Department attended the reviews between Ministers and the Learning and Skills Council's Chairman and Chief Executive held on *(a)* 16 June 2008, *(b)* 21 October 2008 and *(c)* 16 December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [269957]

**Kevin Brennan:** Review meetings are held jointly with the Department for Children Schools and Families. Each meeting is chaired by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Further Education, and attended by the director of the Department's Learning and Skills Performance Directorate. Other Ministers and officials from both Departments also attend depending on the agenda.

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 672W, on the Learning and Skills Council, how much each lease held by the *(a)* Learning and Skills Council and *(b)* Higher Education Funding Council for England cost in the most recent year for which figures are available. [276243]

**Kevin Brennan:** The following table illustrates the lease paid from April 2008 to March 2009 for each building occupied by the Learning and Skills Council and Higher Education Funding Council.

*April 2008-March 2009*

| | *Lease paid (excluding VAT)* |
|---|---|
| *The Learning and Skills Council* | |
| Woburn Court, 2 Railton Road, Woburn Road Ind Estate, Kempston, MK42 7PN | 51,000 |
| Pacific House, Imperial Way, Reading, RG2 0TF | 303,996 |
| NTI Building, 15 Bartholomew Row, Birmingham, B5 5JU | 526,590 |
| Units 6 and 7 Castle Court, 2 Castlegate Business Park, Dudley, DY1 4RD | 69,344 |
| Provincial House, 25 Oxford Road, Bournemouth, BH8 8EY | 143,650 |
| Stuart House, St Johns Street, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 5DD | 160,445 |
| Dalton House, Dalton Way, Middlewich, CW10 0HU | 25,272 |
| Allergate House, Belmont Business Park, Belmont, Durham, DH1 1TW | 125,000 |
| Oak Tree Court, Binley Business Park, Harry Weston Road, Coventry, CV3 2UN | 176,375 |
| Venture/Progress House, Regents Court, Guard Street, Workington, CA14 4EW | 73,000 |
| 1 Mallard Way, Pullman Business Park, Derby, DE24 8GX | 49,000 |
| Foliot House, Budshead Road, Plymouth, PL6 5XR | 165,000 |
| Penhaligon House, Princes Street, Truro, TR1 1DZ | 50,400 |
| Richmond Court, Emperor Way, Exeter Business Park, Exeter, EX1 3QS | 21,250 |
| Redwing House, Hedgerows Business Park, Colchester Road, Chelmsford, CM2 5PB | 288,270 |
| Conway House, 33-35 Worcester Street, Gloucester, GL1 3AJ | 198,750 |
| Eagle Point, Segensworth, Fareham, PO15 5TD | 285,500 |
| 5 Brook Court, Whittington Hall, Whittington Road, Worcester, WR5 2ZX | 72,269 |
| Grosvenor Road, 45 Grosvenor Road, St Albans, AL1 3 AW | 940,705 |
| 4 Earls Court, Henry Boot Way, Hull, HU4 7DY | 52,149 |
| 26 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Mailing, ME19 4AE | 180,000 |
| Citigate, Longridge Road, Preston, PR2 5BQ | 52,300 |
| 17a Meridian East, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1UU | 208,949 |
| Alpha Court, Unit 1B, Alpha Court Business Park, Kingsley Road, Lincoln, LN6 3TA | 40,625 |
| Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London, WC1A 1DR | 1,062,748 |
| Boardman House, 64 The Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 1NT | 232,115 |
| Dumayne House, 1 Fox Lane, Palmers Green, London, N13 4AB | 295,610 |
| Canius House, 1 Scarbrook Road, Croydon, CR0 1SQ | 269,000 |
| Central House, 3 Lampton Road, Hounslow, TW3 1HY | 235,345 |
| Arndale House, Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ | 423,580 |
| The Plaza, Old Hall Street, Liverpool, L3 9QJ | 87,372 |
| Latimer House, Langford Business Park, Langford Locks, Kidlington, OX5 1GG | 265,600 |
| Cheylesmore House North, Quinton Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry, CV1 2WT | 610,620 |
| Cheylesmore House South, Quinton Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry, CV1 2WT | 1,000,000 |
| Security House, Mile Lane, Cheylesmore, Coventry, CV21 2NL | 24,658 |
| Lakeside 500, Old Chapel Way, Broadland Business Park, Norwich, NR7 0WG | 52,650 |
| Royal Pavilion, Summerhouse Road, Moulton Park Ind Estate, Northampton, NN3 6BJ | 266,300 |
| 7 Pioneer Business Park, Amy Johnson Way, Clifton Moorgate, York, YO30 4TN | 97,465 |
| C/O MLS Business Centre, City Gate East, Toll House Hill, Nottingham, NG1 5FY | 122,055 |
| Hollinswood House, Suite G1, Stafford Court, Telford, TF3 3DD | 24,300 |
| Kingston House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton, TA1 2PX | 48,527 |
| The Straddle, Victoria Quays, Wharf Street, Sheffield, S2 5SY | 335,000 |
| Festival Way, Festival Park, Stoke-On-Trent, ST1 5TQ | 69,700 |

*April 2008-March 2009*

| | *Lease paid (excluding VAT)* |
|---|---|
| Felaw Makings, 42 Felaw Street, Ipswich, IP2 8SJ | 133,925 |
| Technology House, 48-54 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6LE | 178,416 |
| Princes House, 53 Queens Road, Brighton, BN1 3XB. | 332,972 |
| Wynyard House, Wynyard Park, Billingham,TS22 5TB | 65,088 |
| Moongate House, 5th Avenue Business Park, Team Valley, Gateshead, NE11 OHF | 210,000 |
| St Lawrence House, 29-31 Broad Street, Bristol, BS1 2HF | 261,472 |
| Mercury House, 4 Manchester Road, Bradford, BD5 OQL | 422,000 |
| The Bora Building, Westlea Campus, Westlea Down, Swindon, SN5 7EZ | 192,300 |
| *Higher Education Funding Council for England* | |
| Northavon House, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QD | 739,241 |
| 12th Floor Centre Point 03 New Oxford Street LONDON WC1A 1DD | 205,590 |

## Manufacturing Industries

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of Bank of England interest rates on levels of manufacturing output in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278852]

**Ian Lucas:** No assessment of the effects of Bank of England interest rates on levels of manufacturing output in each of the last 12 months.

However, the reduction in the bank rate to a record low of 0.5 per cent. in March 2009, along with a £125 billion programme of quantitative easing, and fiscal support from both discretionary fiscal action and automatic stabilisers worth 4 per cent. of GDP in 2009-10, has formed part of a strong macroeconomic policy stimulus to the economy. These actions help provide the conditions for a UK economic recovery. The world economy is experiencing its first recession since the second world war, driven by the global financial crisis, and governments around the world have adopted similar policies to those in the UK to help encourage a return to growth.

## Manufacturing Industries: Competition

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the competitiveness of manufacturing industry. [279047]

**Ian Lucas:** According to official ONS data, the UK manufacturing sector while suffering a sharp decrease in production, has not been worse affected during the current global recession than manufacturing in some other advanced economies. In the year to March 2009, manufacturing output fell by 12.7 per cent. in the UK, compared to falls of 35.0 per cent. in Japan, 22.9 per cent. in Germany, 17.7 per cent. in France, and by 14.9 per cent. in the US. In March and April 2009, some countries have seen manufacturing output increase on the month, including increases in the UK of 0.2 per cent. in both months.

## Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications had been made for assistance under the automotive assistance programme on the latest date for which figures are available; how many payments had been made under the programme on the latest date for which figures are available; and how much had been paid under the scheme on that date. [278603]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* We are currently in detailed discussions with a number of businesses about their applications for funding under the Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP).

There have been more than 70 further requests for information on the scheme with the AAP team working with companies resulting in around 15 approaches being developed into detailed discussions with BIS for serious applications.

The details are commercially sensitive and subject to agreement. However, some details about the support provided under the AAP will become available in due course.

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to assist the automotive industries in the next 12 months. [278963]

**Ian Lucas:** The Automotive Assistance Package (AAP). The primary aim of this package of up to £2.3 billion is to support the continued delivery of investment that will create or sustain jobs, develop cutting-edge technology, bring special value to the UK, reduce $CO_2$ emissions and maintain R&D in UK vehicle manufacturing.

In addition to the AAP, Government have taken a range of other actions to help secure the long-term future of the automotive sector in the UK. For instance, at the end of 2008, the UK Government helped secure €8 billion for the automotive industry from the European Investment Bank. Government have also provided considerable support for the development of skills and training in the automotive sector and continues to do so.

Automotive firms are also eligible for wider Government support for businesses such as the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, the Working Capital Scheme and other "Real Help for Business" Local Business Links also provide a range of free business advice and support services.

A scrappage scheme to help boost the automotive industry was announced in the Budget and operational from 18 May. The scheme will run until 28 February 2010 or until the Government funding runs out. £300 million of Government funding has been allocated, enough to provide up to 300,000 new vehicle sales.

The industry led New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team (NAIGT) published its report last month. Key recommendations, aimed at both industry and Government, included the establishment of a joint industry/Government Automotive Council to develop

and implement a long term strategic framework for the industry; and proposals to focus the UK automotive R&D agenda around a new industry-consensus technology roadmap. The report also included more detailed subsidiary recommendations focussed around further improving the UK business environment and developing a stronger, more competitive supply chain. The Government's intention is to publish its formal response to the NAIGT report during the summer.

### Motor Vehicles: West Midlands

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the car scrappage scheme in the West Midlands. [279357]

**Ian Lucas:** It is really too early to expect to see an impact by region.

To date more than 60,000 new cars have been ordered via the car scrappage scheme. While we anticipate being able to give a breakdown of orders by region in due course, data are not yet available that would allow accurate regional figures to be provided.

### Non-departmental Public Bodies

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the administration budget was for each non-departmental public body that receives funding from his Department in the last three years for which figures are available. [276160]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed in June 2007, following the Machinery of Government changes, as a result we are only able to provide information from 2007-08. The administration budget figures for NDPBs which receive funding from the Depart[illegible] are as follows:

| | *Admin budget 2007-08* | *Admin budget 2008-09* |
|---|---|---|
| Copyright Tribunal | 45,000 | 61,000 |
| Council for Science and Technology | [1]150 | [1]150 |
| Design Council | | |
| Budget | 4,332,000.7 | 2,878,000.4 |
| Actual | 4,257,000.3 | 3,547,000.4 |
| HEFCE | 9.099 million | 11.360 million |
| Investors in People UK | 2.41million | 2.385 million |
| Pay | 1.782 million | 1.621 million |
| Non-pay | 628,000 | 764,000 |
| LSC | 211 million | [2]189 million |
| Office for Fair Access | 500,000 | 548,000 |
| Quality Improvement Agency | 6 million | [3]n/a |
| Research Councils | 101.74 million | 106.48 million |
| Sector Skills Development Agency | 9.213 million | [3]n/a |
| Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy (SABIP) | n/a | 250,000 |
| Student Loans Company | 58.541 million | 78,143,000 |
| Technology Strategy Board | [4]29.877 million | [5]29.889 million |
| UKCES | [6]0 | 8.444 million |

[1] Includes all expenses incurred by the council
[2] Unaudited/provisional figure until accounts published in July 2009
[3] Ceased to exist from 2008-09
[4] Includes £2.007 million relating to administrative support contracts
[5] Includes £8.745 million relating to administrative support contracts
[6] Set-up costs only

### Overseas Students: Fees and Charges

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much has been received by universities in fees from foreign students taught in higher education institutions in each year since 2006; [269161]

(2) when he plans to answer question 269161, tabled on 1 April 2009, on fees received from foreign students taught in higher education institutions. [278394]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest published information on course fees paid by non-EU domiciled students is shown in the table. This is the only centrally-held information available regarding institutions' income from foreign students. This is shown alongside the total income of higher education institutions in England.

*Non-EU domiciled students HE course fees and total income: English higher education institutions, academic year 2006/07 and 2007/08*

£'000

| | *Non-EU domiciled course fees* | *Total income* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006/07 | 1,472,893 | 17,591,618 |
| 2007/08 | 1,619,689 | 19,400,191 |

*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student finance record.

### Press: Competition

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an assessment of the contracts *(a)* awarded in the newspaper and magazine wholesale distribution market in the last six months and *(b)* likely to be awarded in that market in the next six months for the purposes of monitoring levels of competitiveness in that market. [274235]

**Kevin Brennan:** It is for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), as the UK's independent competition authority, to consider such matters. I understand the OFT is aware of, and is actively monitoring recent developments in this market. It will carefully consider representations from interested parties about the potential for these to impact on competition. It will also take any such representations into account in the context of taking its final decision on whether to refer the newspaper and magazine supply sector to the Competition Commission for a market investigation. The public consultation on its draft decision not to make such a reference closed on 19 May.

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions in the last month *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had discussions with representatives of the Office of Fair Trading on the newspaper and magazine distribution market. [274398]

**Kevin Brennan:** Ministers have had no discussions with the OFT about this matter during the last month. Officials have similarly had no substantive discussions with the OFT on this issue though they have spoken with colleagues at the OFT about practical matters relating to my Noble Friend the Secretary of State's decision on the future of the statutory undertakings from newspaper wholesalers which was announced on 20 April. Officials have also sought input as necessary from the OFT in order to provide accurate responses to certain recent Parliamentary questions relating to the OFT's work on newspaper and magazine distribution issues.

### Regulation: Public Consultation

**John Penrose:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of suggestions received on the Better Regulation website identified a regulatory conflict in the last 12 months. [274370]

**Ian Lucas:** In the last financial year (2008-09), the Better Regulation Executive's website

www.betterregulation.gov.uk

received 270 ideas.

Of these, 106 (39 per cent.) submitted indicated a 'Conflict in Regulations'.

### Supermarkets

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Tescos, *(b)* Asda, *(c)* Sainsbury's, *(d)* Morrisons, *(e)* Waitrose and *(f)* The Co-op on the introduction of (i) a revised Groceries Supply Code of Practice and (ii) a supermarket ombudsman. [275079]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* Ministers and BIS officials hold regular meetings with businesses to discuss a range of issues as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings. There have not been any recent meetings with the named grocery retailers specifically held to discuss the Competition Commission's (CC) proposals to strengthen the groceries supply code of practice (GSCOP), or to set up a GSCOP ombudsman.

### Trading Schemes

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what definition his Department uses for a participant in a trading scheme in its publication The Trading Scheme Guide; what the basis in legislation is for *(a)* the description of a participant contained in the guide, *(b)* the key test as to who is not a participant applied in the guide and *(c)* the test of independence of a participant applied in the guide; and if he will make a statement. [278138]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* In issuing guidance the Department is not providing a definitive interpretation of the legislation as that is a matter for the courts. The Department provides guidance on statues in order to help business and consumers to understand whether a particular law applies to them or to their circumstances. This guidance is not a statement of the law, but is simply the Department's view of its meaning.

The section of the Trading Schemes Guide referred to attempts to describe the nature of the organiser and participant relationship in trading schemes which are subject to the regime as set out in part XI of the Fair Trading Act 1973, section 118 (1) (3) and (4). In this context, the relevant definition of "participant" is that in the Fair Trading Act 1973, section 118(8). The legislation regulating trading schemes include Part XI of the Fair Trading Act 1973 amended by the Trading Schemes Act 1996, the Trading Schemes Regulations 1997, Trading Scheme (Exclusion) Regulations 1997, Trading Schemes (Exclusion) (Amendment) Regulations 1997. The guide covers this legislation.

### Unemployment

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of *(a)* males aged 16 to 18, *(b)* females aged 16 to 18, *(c)* males aged 19 to 24 and *(d)* females aged 19 to 24 years were not in education, employment or training in the first quarter of each year since 1997. [275869]

**Kevin Brennan:** The following tables show estimates of people aged[1] 16 to 18 and 19 to 24 not in employment, education or training (NEET) in England. These estimates are from the quarter 1 Labour Force Survey (LFS) in all years that the required data are available.

We are unable to provide NEET estimates back to 1997 from the LFS as all the data necessary to produce them are not available on datasets prior to quarter 2 2000. However for 16-18 year olds data are available from 1997 using the definitive source for this age group and are published annually in a DCSF Statistical First Release. The most recent release is due to be updated on 16 June 2009 and will be available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000849/index.shtml.

Data from the LFS for more recent periods up to quarter 4 2008 are available from official statistics last published by DCSF in February 2009 (see following link). These are due to be updated to include quarter 1 2009 on 23 June 2009.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000751/index.shtml

[1]Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

*16 to 18 year olds not in employment education or training (NEET).*

| | *Male NEET* | *%* | *Female NEET* | *%* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 91,000 | 10.1 | 78,000 | 9.2 |
| 2002 | 100,000 | 10.8 | 88,000 | 9.9 |
| 2003 | 108,000 | 11.3 | 90,000 | 10.0 |

*16 to 18 year olds not in employment education or training (NEET).*

| | Male NEET | % | Female NEET | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 101,000 | 10.5 | 88,000 | 9.6 |
| 2005 | 106,000 | 10.8 | 98,000 | 10.4 |
| 2006 | 128,000 | 12.9 | 97,000 | 10.3 |
| 2007 | 122,000 | 12.1 | 90,000 | 9.6 |
| 2008 | 101,000 | 10.1 | 92,000 | 9.7 |

*Source:*
Labour Force Survey, quarter 1
*Base:*
16 to 18 year olds, England

*19 to 24 year olds not in employment education or training (NEET).*

| | Male NEET | % | Female NEET | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 173,000 | 10.2 | 330,000 | 19.1 |
| 2002 | 190,000 | 11.1 | 323,000 | 18.6 |
| 2003 | 199,000 | 11.3 | 333,000 | 18.9 |
| 2004 | 179,000 | 9.8 | 310,000 | 17.1 |
| 2005 | 205,000 | 10.9 | 334,000 | 18.1 |
| 2006 | 216,000 | 11.3 | 360,000 | 19.2 |
| 2007 | 249,000 | 12.6 | 367,000 | 18.8 |
| 2008 | 256,000 | 12.6 | 361,000 | 18.3 |

*Source:*
Labour Force Survey, quarter 1
*Base:*
19 to 24 year olds, England

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of people aged 16 to 24 years old were not in education, employment and training in the first quarter of each year for which figures are available. [275870]

**Kevin Brennan:** The following table shows estimates of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in employment, education or training (NEET) in England. The earliest estimates are from the quarter 1 2001 Labour Force Survey (LFS), the earliest quarter 1 for which figures are available.

Data from the LFS for more recent periods up to quarter 4 2008 are available from official statistics last published by DCSF in February 2009 (see following link). These are due to be updated to include quarter 1 2009 on 23 June 2009.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000751/index.shtml

*16 to 24 year olds not in employment, education or training (NEET).*

| Q1 | NEET | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 671,000 | 13.0 |
| 2002 | 701,000 | 13.3 |
| 2003 | 729,000 | 13.6 |
| 2004 | 677,000 | 12.3 |
| 2005 | 743,000 | 13.1 |
| 2006 | 801,000 | 14.0 |
| 2007 | 828,000 | 14.1 |
| 2008 | 810,000 | 13.6 |

[1] Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey, quarter 1
*Base:*
16 to 24 year olds, England

## Yes Loans

**John Penrose:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) for what reason Yes Loans has been allowed to continue trading after its consumer credit licence expired in June 2008; [277312]

(2) when a decision will be made on the renewal of Yes Loans' consumer credit licence. [277311]

**Kevin Brennan:** Yes Loans' licence did not expire in June 2008. Yes Loans submitted a valid application to renew its consumer credit licence before the licence was due to expire. In accordance with section 29 of the Consumer Credit Act, the licence continues in force until the OFT reaches a decision on its application and, if there is an appeal against the OFT decision, until the appeals process is completed.

The OFT is aware of concerns and has been working with Yes Loans in considering certain matters relating to its business practices. However I am sure you will appreciate that it would not be appropriate for me to comment further on this matter while a review is still under way.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 18 June 2009*

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279506]

**Dan Norris:** No DEFRA Ministers have had private meetings with representatives of Demos in the past 12 months. The Department does not keep a central record of everyone who may attend a public engagement attended by DEFRA Ministers.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much expenditure his Department incurred in respect of *(a)* Creative Cooking (London) Ltd., *(b)* Leith's, *(c)* Alliance Française de Londres Ltd, *(d)* Tinklertastic and *(e)* Canine Behaviour Centre in 2007-08; and for what purpose in each case. [278991]

**Dan Norris:** The core-Department's financial system records the following expenditure in 2009-08 for the organisations listed:

| *Organisation* | *Purpose* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Alliance Française de Londres Ltd. | Language Tuition | 882 |
| Canine Behaviour Centre | Skills Training | 217.50 |
| Creative Cooking (London) Ltd. | Catering Services | 1535.73 |
| Leith's | Conference and Events Services | 9913.33 |
| Tinklertastic | Communications and Marketing Services | 10,490.00 |

### Fisheries

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet a delegation of inshore fishermen and fish merchants to discuss ways to enable fishing to continue when fish merchants are unable to report landing details within the required time. [280656]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The provisions to which the hon. Member refers form part of a proposal from the European Commission for a new control regulation which was published last November. The original proposal was for sales notes to be submitted electronically by all buyers within two hours of sale. We have sought stakeholders' views on this and all other aspects of the proposal. In a revised proposal, recently published by the Commission after discussions with member states, the time limit for the submission of sales notes has been increased to six hours and an exemption has been provided from the need to submit sales notes electronically for businesses with an annual financial turnover in fisheries products of less than 200,000 euros. This revised proposal will be subject to further negotiation with member states and will not be adopted before October at the earliest. I would point out that failure by a buyer to comply with requirements relating to the submission of sales notes would not result in vessels being required to stop fishing.

### Flood Control

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of people who have made up a flood kit; and what steps he is taking to encourage people to make up kits. [280481]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Environment Agency has made no estimate of the number of people who have made up flood kits; however, their 'Preparing for a flood' guide encourages people to produce flood kits. This is available on the Environment Agency's website or from its Floodline call centre. Since March 2008, a copy has been sent to everyone who registers for the Environment Agency's free flood warning service.

Since December 2007, the Environment Agency has distributed over 260,000 'Preparing for a flood' guides.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [279821]

**Dan Norris:** The Department is currently applying 1.5 full-time equivalent members of staff to work on project management and on legacy planning for London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This input is expected to rise over the coming years. Staff at the Environment Agency and Natural England are also involved in work related to the Games.

### Tigers

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to seek to ensure compliance with the decision taken at the last Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species conference in respect of the closing down of tiger farms. [280155]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** At the 14th Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Decision 14.69 was adopted calling

on CITES Parties with intensive, commercial-scale tiger breeding operations (i) to implement measures to restrict their captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers, and (ii) not to breed tigers for trade in their parts and derivatives.

While Decision 14.69 does not set any deadlines, the 57th CITES Standing Committee meeting in July 2008 called for relevant Parties to submit progress reports for review by the Committee at its 58th meeting in July 2009. My Department subsequently participated in a working group established to provide guidance on Decision 14.69. CITES Notification 2008/059, issued in October 2008, clarified aspects of the Decision and requested that relevant Parties submit reports on progress by 28 February 2009. The subject will next be discussed at the 58th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, of which the UK is a member, representing the European region.

### Water Charges

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish a summary of representations he has received from members of the public on water rates in the last five years. [281239]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** My Department has received a range of representations on water charges in the last five years. However, a substantive summary of these representations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Water Companies: Carbon Emissions

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment Ofwat has made of the performance of water companies in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. [280792]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Ofwat published details of the water companies' greenhouse gas emissions in its report 'Service and delivery—performance of water companies in England and Wales 2007-08'.

A copy of the report has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Electoral Registration

8. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission is taking to increase levels of electoral registration in constituencies in which such levels are disproportionately low. [280578]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that, following its first annual assessment of electoral registration officers' performance, the Commission will meet with the EROs from the 56 local authorities who did not meet one or more of the standards relating to the accuracy and completeness of electoral registers, to agree plans for improvement.

The Commission further informs me that these plans will set out specific actions to be taken to improve performance at the 2009 annual canvass, covering such areas as house-to-house inquiries, ensuring appropriate project management, and staff training.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Members: Pensions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will estimate the effect on future expenditure from the public purse of amending the parliamentary contributory pensions scheme to *(a)* cap the Exchequer contribution at (i) 20 per cent. and (ii) 15 per cent. of payroll, *(b)* move to a career average salary scheme, *(c)* raise the pension age and time in line with the increase in the age of entitlement to the basic state pension, *(d)* change accrual rate from 1/40th to 1/50th and *(e)* raise the employee contribution by 1 per cent.; and if she will make a statement. [280167]

**Barbara Keeley:** When the Prime Minister asked the Review Body on Senior Salaries (SSRB) to conduct a review of the parliamentary pension arrangements, he asked it to consider the full range of options for reducing the Exchequer contribution. The SSRB launched its consultation on 8 June, inviting evidence from interested parties by 31 July. The Government are considering its evidence and will make an announcement in due course.

## TRANSPORT

### Biofuels

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 426W, on biofuels, whether he has had discussions with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his counterparts in other EU member states on (i) the sustainability criteria for biofuels in (A) the renewable energy directive and (B) the fuel quality directive and (ii) the volume of biofuels required to meet (1) the renewable energy directive target and (2) the greenhouse gas savings of the fuel quality directive. [280072]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport is exploring, in conjunction with UK stakeholders, a range of options for the treatment of biofuels with differing carbon savings, under both directives. We will also be setting out the projected volume of biofuel required to meet these directives, following consultation, in a National Action Plan by June 2010. As part of these processes my officials are in regular dialogue with the European Commission and other member states.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of changes in levels of usage of bus services since the introduction of concessionary fares schemes in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* 2008. [279707]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* Table A is based on figures published today by the Department for Transport in Bus and Light Rail Statistics: Q1 2009, and shows the current estimates for bus journeys in England for each financial year since 2000-01.

Over the period covered by the table there were three major changes in the concessionary fares scheme:

June 2001: Statutory minimum bus concessionary fares were introduced in England. Local authorities had to offer a concession of at least half the single fare to women aged 60 and over, and men aged 65 and over.

April 2006: Free concessionary bus travel within the local authority was introduced in England for disabled passengers and those aged 60 or over. Some authorities continued to fund travel into other areas or on other modes of transport in their area at their discretion.

April 2008: Free off-peak local bus travel for older and eligible disabled people was extended nationally in England.

*Table A: Bus journeys—England, 2000-01 to 2008-09*

| | *Local bus journeys (million)* | *Year-on-year percentage change* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 3,842 | |
| 2001-02 | 3,881 | 1.0 |
| 2002-03 | 3,964 | 2.1 |
| 2003-04 | 4,087 | 3.1 |
| 2004-05 | 4,140 | 1.3 |
| 2005-06 | 4,198 | 1.3 |
| 2006-07 | 4,470 | 6.5 |
| 2007-08 | 4,530 | 1.3 |
| 2008-09[1] | 4,674 | 3.2 |

[1] Provisional.

*Source:*
Bus and Light Rail Statistics: Q1 2009

### Carbon Sequestration: Finance

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport from which of his Department's budgets the £60 million reallocated to carbon capture and storage in the Budget 2009 Red Book will be drawn. [278932]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport's contribution to the cost of carbon capture and storage will be funded from accumulated underspends, across our programmes as a whole, from prior years.

### Channel Tunnel Railway Line

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effect of track access charges applicable to the track through the Channel Tunnel on the potential for growth in international rail freight; and if he will make a statement. [279347]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* No recent assessment of the impact of track access charges on the potential growth of international freight through the Channel Tunnel has been made.

### Diesel Fuel: EU Action

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether a mechanism exists for EU member states to seek a temporary derogation from the EU sulphur specification for diesel fuel; and if he will make a statement. [280156]

**Mr. Khan:** EU requirements on the quality of petrol and diesel are defined in the Fuel Quality Directive 98/70/EC as amended. Article 7 of this directive permits member states to apply for a derogation from these requirements for up to 6 months in the event that a sudden change to the supply of crude oil or petroleum products makes it difficult for refineries to comply.

We understand this derogation to be intended to accommodate major, unexpected disruptions to oil supplies only. The directive does not contain any other derogations which could be applied in respect of the supply of sulphur-free diesel in the UK.

### Integrated Transport

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has for the development of an integrated transport system. [281129]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government are committed to promoting an integrated transport system through measures such as improved interchange, better passenger information and smarter ticketing.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 30 April 2009, transferred from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, reference: 134438/SW on ecodiesel. [281101]

**Mr. Khan:** I replied to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire in my letter dated 12 June 2009.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [279818]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport has 9.25 full-time equivalent members of staff whose work relates wholly to the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. Many other members of staff in the Department and its agencies are also contributing to delivery of the Government's objectives for the 2012 Games.

### Roads: East of England

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much funding his Department allocated for the construction of highways in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [280097]

(2) how much funding his Department allocated for the creation of additional lanes on highways in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [280098]

**Mr. Khan:** The following tables highlight how much funding the Department for Transport has allocated for the construction of highways and the creation of additional lanes on highways in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England Region in each year since 1997:

*Table 1: Mid-Bedfordshire*

£ million

| | Highways agency schemes | Local major road schemes (including maintenance) |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-2001 | 0.0 | 0.255 |
| 2001-02 | 0.0 | 1.400 |
| 2002-03 | 0.0 | 3.930 |
| 2003-04 | 1.0 | 1.665 |
| 2004-05 | 5.1 | 0.175 |
| 2005-06 | 12.2 | 0.0 |
| 2006-07 | 25.3 | 8.825 |
| 2007-08 | 21.5 | 7.505 |
| 2008-09 | 41.2 | 2.547 |

*Table 2: East of England (including Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Thurrock)*

£ million

| | Highways agency schemes | Local major road schemes (including maintenance) |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-2001 | 40.7 | 2.602 |
| 2001-02 | 47.63 | 13.930 |
| 2002-03 | 153.3 | 13.267 |
| 2003-04 | 72.5 | 13.953 |
| 2004-05 | 48.5 | 35.908 |
| 2005-06 | 122.6 | 31.026 |
| 2006-07 | 180.8 | 32.170 |
| 2007-08 | 161.7 | 9.655 |
| 2008-09 | 166.5 | 9.376 |

## Transport: East of England

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much funding his Department has allocated for the construction of bus lanes in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [280095]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated for the construction of bicycle paths in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [280149]

(3) how much funding his Department has allocated for the construction of footpaths in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [280150]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for capital investment in transport. Funding provided by the Department to local authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities, which may include bicycle paths, bus lanes and footpaths. Allocations provided to Bedfordshire and the Eastern Region since 1997 are

£ million

| | Bedfordshire | Eastern region |
|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 9.286 | 157.771 |
| 2007-08 | 7.751 | 159.476 |
| 2006-07 | 9.573 | 157.826 |
| 2005-06 | 9.351 | 156.899 |
| 2004-05 | 8.001 | 156.586 |
| 2003-04 | 7.364 | 141.735 |
| 2002-03 | 6.591 | 140.193 |
| 2001-02 | 7.147 | 137.774 |
| 2000-01 | 4.017 | 56.608 |
| 1999-2000 | 4.602 | 52.125 |
| 1998-99 | 3.070 | 32.150 |
| 1997-98 | 3.692 | 41.203 |

*Note:*
Since 2000 the allocations comprise integrated transport block grant and highways maintenance. Prior to 2000 the allocations are in the form of gross approved spending.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant.

The Department also provided specific funding for:

1. In 2008-09, the Department made available £117,000 to Bedfordshire and Luton borough for their Cycling Demonstration Town. In the same year, the East of England region was also allocated £548,000. This was made up of capital and revenue funding.

2. The cycling programme—'Links to Schools'—set up in the East of England received capital funding from the Department. The amounts are stated in the table:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 195,000 |
| For Bedfordshire, Luton borough | (120,000) |
| 2007-08 | 76,136 |
| For Bedfordshire | (0) |
| 2006-07 | 276,531 |
| For Bedfordshire | (0) |
| 2005-06 | 235,000 |
| For Bedfordshire | (0) |

## Transport: Finance

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much his Department has spent on transport in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* Tyne and Wear, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [279275]

(2) how much capital expenditure on roads there was in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [279325]

**Mr. Khan:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 535-6W.

In addition, I also refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness (Mr. Stuart) on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 534-536W. This provided tables showing the available data on regional expenditure on new construction/

and trunk roads, as well as regional expenditure on new improvement for highways, lighting, road safety and structural maintenance on local roads for 1999-2000 to 2006-07. The data do not enable new road construction to be identified as a separate category.

The Department has provided the following support for public transport major schemes in the north-east.

*Tyne and Wear*

Stephenson Link (£6.444 million)

Four Lane Ends Interchange (£7.625 million)

Centrelink and Gateshead Interchange (£17.442 million)

NewcastleGateshead Quaylink (£4.74 million)

Eldon Square Bus Station (£10.970 million)

*Rest of north-east*

Durham Park and Ride (£9.163 million)

*Tyne and Wear Metro*

The Department has provided the following sums to support the operation of the Tyne and Wear Metro. It is not possible to split this expenditure between South Tyneside and the other Tyne and Wear local authority areas.

£ million

| | Revenue support | Capital support | Total subsidy |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 8.795 | — | 8.795 |
| 1997-98 | 8.619 | — | 8.619 |
| 1998-99 | 8.630 | — | 8.630 |
| 1999-2000 | 9.428 | — | 9.428 |
| 2000-01 | 9.787 | — | 9.787 |
| 2001-02 | 9.884 | — | 9.884 |
| 2002-03 | 11.831 | — | 11.831 |
| 2003-04 | 13.407 | — | 13.407 |
| 2004-05 | 15.952 | — | 15.952 |
| 2005-06 | 13.713 | 4.180 | 17.893 |
| 2006-07 | 18.057 | 4.305 | 22.362 |
| 2007-08 | 20.779 | 4.391 | 25.170 |
| 2008-09 | 19.943 | 7.131 | 27.074 |

Up to and including 2004-05, grant was provided solely as revenue support although Nexus were able to use this for capital spending on the Metro. Since then the annual subsidy has included a separately identifiable amount for capital spend.

Additionally the Department has provided the following specific funding for the Tyne and Wear Metro:

| Purpose | Year | Amount (£ million) |
|---|---|---|
| Extension of the Metro to Sunderland | 1999-2000 to 2003-04 | 37.465 |
| Metrocar refurbishment | 2000-01 | 0.46 |
| Four Lane Ends Bus/ Metro Interchange | 2002-03 to 2004-05 | 7.625 |
| CCTV provision | 2000-01 | 7.2 |
| Development costs for Metro Reinvigoration | 2008-09 | 3.155 |

For total transport expenditure in England, table 1.15 of Transport Statistics Great Britain 2008 provides central and local Government expenditure:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/

The Treasury provides a breakdown of regional spend by service in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses. The latest figures for public expenditure on transport are given in table 9.9 and 9.10:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/10(1).pdf

Before 1 April 2008, funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the Formula Grant system, which is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). The Department for Transport therefore provided no separate funding for concessionary bus travel from 2001, when the statutory minimum was first introduced, until 2008.

The Department provided funding in 2007-08 for the cost of producing and issuing the new England-wide bus passes to all those eligible.

In 2008-09 and 2009-10 special grant funding is being provided by DFT to meet the additional cost of the new, England-wide concession.

Concessionary fares funding:

£ million

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|---|
| South Tyneside | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tyne and Wear | 0.94 | 5.38 | 5.50 |
| North East | 2.14 | 10.31 | 10.56 |
| England | 30.48 | 212 | 217 |

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### International Assistance

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's latest assessment is of progress in relation to the achievement of the millennium development goals. [280602]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The UN conducts the official assessment of progress towards the millennium development goals (MDGs). Its latest report relating to 2008 found that the global collective effort is yielding results and that progress is being made globally towards achieving many of the MDGs even in some of the more challenging regions. A number of targets are expected to be reached by their target dates in 2015. The report is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/mdg-factsheets/mdg-report-2008.pdf

The Department for International Development (DFID) also conducts an annual assessment of progress towards key MDG targets at a country level based on international data. The latest assessment was published in its 2008 autumn performance report (copies of which are also in the parliamentary Library):

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/aut-perf-report-08.pdf

### Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian needs of people in Tamil areas and camps for internally displaced persons in Sri

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Since October 2008, more than 284,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) have been registered in Government-controlled IDP camps. Freedom of movement is denied in the camps except for some vulnerable groups and the elderly. The remaining IDPs are under military guard. Protection in the camps is a matter of concern. The Department for International Development (DFID) is particularly concerned for the war wounded, malnourished and those separated from their families—including unaccompanied children. The camps are overcrowded and have poor water and sanitation facilitates. Hospitals, such as those in Vavuniya and Mannar, are also overcrowded, having more patients than they can effectively treat.

Access for humanitarian agencies has improved this week, but it remains inconsistent. Continued poor access has impeded agencies' ability to improve the conditions in the camps which remain of concern.

The UK Government continue to press the Government of Sri Lanka to allow full and unrestricted humanitarian access to all IDPs, to treat IDPs in accordance with accepted international standards and guidelines; and to allow for their rapid and safe return from the camps to their homes.

### Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the proportion of humanitarian aid to the Tamil people in Sri Lanka from *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the EU and *(c)* the UN which was delivered (i) via Sri Lankan Government agencies, (ii) via non-governmental organisations and (iii) directly in the latest period for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [280306]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* Since September 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £12.5 million of humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka. Of this, £2.8 million has been provided to UN agencies, £1.5 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), £1.235 million to the International Organisation for Migration and £1.050 million to NGOs for a wide range of life-saving humanitarian activities. Approximately £6.0 million remains to respond rapidly to further needs on the ground and for early recovery when the displaced population are able to return home. No funding has been provided to Sri Lankan Government agencies.

*(b)* The European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has pledged US$3,952 million for UN organisations, the ICRC and NGOs for 2009.

*(c)* The UN Consolidated Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) 2009 for Sri Lanka includes both UN and non-governmental organisations. As of 5 June the CHAP was funded to 40 per cent. at US$61,594,766. An additional $28,143,620 has been pledged to UN and NGO activities outside the CHAP.

DFID funding through the EU mechanism or to the UN should be allocated directly to implementing partners (UN agencies, NGOs and the ICRC).

### Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the merits of renewing direct aid provision to Zimbabwe. [280078]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The UK Government are committed to supporting the people of Zimbabwe in the transition to stabilisation and recovery and have been at the forefront of efforts by the international community to support the needs of the Inclusive Government.

Our assistance is aligned to Government priorities but is not currently channelled through their financial systems. We have made it clear, in all our discussions with Ministers and officials from the Inclusive Government, that credible progress and demonstration of a commitment to reform will attract increasing support from donors and other international partners, potentially including direct aid provision. We look forward to working together towards establishing a longer-term development partnership which will address the deeper roots of Zimbabwe's problems.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Business: Ethics

**Mr. McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for further development of his Department's toolkit for business and human rights for use by UK missions overseas. [279654]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has developed a series of toolkits to guide our posts in their human rights work overseas. The toolkit on business and human rights is the latest in this series and aims to provide guidance for UK diplomatic missions on how to promote good conduct by British companies operating overseas and to provide specific guidance on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development National Contact Point procedure. The toolkit is still being developed with the help of other Government Departments and external stakeholders. When finalised, it will be disseminated to posts and made available as a resource on the FCO's internal web pages.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's latest assessment is of whether the full military and police components mandated for MONUC will be put in place. [279375]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The additional infantry, engineers, special forces and police mandated for the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) by the UN Security Council in Resolution 1843 have been identified. The UN Secretariat and troop contributing countries are making advanced preparations for their deployment, which they hope will take place in the next few months. Several member states have expressed interest in providing the 200 military trainers mandated, but at present the concept for their use is still being developed

by the UN Secretariat. However, the UN Secretariat has had few offers so far for additional aircraft and intelligence equipment.

### Departmental Opinion Polls

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which subjects his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* conducted opinion polling in each of the last two years; which such polls canvassed opinion from Departmental employees; and what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on such polling. [280717]

**Chris Bryant:** The following central departmental surveys have been commissioned and conducted since June 2007:

Survey of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) stakeholders (2008)

Staff engagement survey (2007 and 2008)

Survey measuring awareness of FCO among the public (2008)

Survey of partners across Government (2009)

All these surveys have been commissioned by FCO and conducted by external, independent research organisations.

The staff engagement surveys in 2007 and 2008 canvassed opinion from departmental employees.

The total cost of the five surveys listed above is £198,000.

The FCO is a global organisation consisting of a number of directorates in the UK and over 200 overseas posts. Some directorates and overseas posts conduct independent surveys on specific issues. Information about such surveys is not held centrally. To collate information on surveys conducted across the whole of the FCO would involve collecting information from all directorates and all overseas posts, which would incur disproportionate costs.

### Eritrea: Christianity

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Eritrean government on the imprisonment of Christians in that country. [279604]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Our embassy in Asmara is aware of reports of the detention without charge by the Eritrean Government of members of minority religious groups along with journalists, leading political figures and members of civil society and returned asylum seekers. This contravenes international human rights agreements to which Eritrea is a party and is unacceptable. Eritrea should allow all its citizens to worship as they wish, as set out in Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The UK raises human rights issues including religious freedom with the Eritrean Government both in Asmara and with the Eritrean ambassador to London on a regular basis. My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised human rights with the Eritrean ambassador at the end of last year.

A huge obstacle to achieving any progress on human rights in Eritrea is that the Eritrean police and security services are not willing to engage with our embassy on human rights abuses. This makes following up reports of any abuses, including imprisonments, very difficult.

The EU has also tried to discuss human rights as part of the Article 8 Political Dialogue with Eritrea. Unfortunately, since initial discussions earlier this year the Government of Eritrea have twice refused to have human rights included on the Article 8 Dialogue agenda for discussion.

We will continue to raise human rights, including the detention without charge of minority religious groups, with the Eritrean authorities.

### Eritrea: Human Rights

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Eritrean Government on allegations of human rights abuses in that country. [279603]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK raises human rights issues with the Eritrean Government both in Asmara and with the Eritrean ambassador to London on a regular basis, highlighting the amount of public and parliamentary interest we receive. My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised human rights with the Eritrean ambassador at the end of last year.

We also discuss human rights as part of the EU via the Article 8 Political Dialogue, with EU Heads of Mission producing a human rights report at the end of January to discuss with the Government of Eritrea. Unfortunately, since initial discussions earlier this year the Government of Eritrea have twice refused to have human rights included on the Article 8 Dialogue agenda for discussion.

We will continue to press to get human rights discussions back on the Article 8 Dialogue agenda.

### EU Institutions: Manpower

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1312W, on EC institutions: manpower, what steps he has taken to increase the number of civil service fast streamers working in European Union institutions. [280326]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government are continuing to engage with the EU institutions as they introduce reforms to recruitment competitions, seek to increase their outreach activities, and develop their staffing policy. Government Departments are currently discussing whether a revised version of the European Fast Stream should be reintroduced for 2010 and what form it would take. DEFRA is leading on an initiative to increase EU professionalism across the civil service, including increasing the number of UK nationals applying for and passing the EU's recruitment competitions.

### Gabon: Politics and Government

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in Gabon following the death of Omar Bongo. [279374]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Following the death of President Bongo, the Gabonese constitutional court has appointed the leader of the senate, Rose Francine Rogombé, as the

acting head of state. This is in accordance with the constitution of Gabon. In line with the constitution, she will now have 45 days to organise elections in which she is ineligible to stand. The situation in Gabon is currently calm.

### Hezbollah

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria will be used in deciding which members of Hezbollah's political wing officials should meet. [277218]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Our objective with Hezbollah is to urge it to reject violence and play a constructive, democratic and peaceful role in Lebanese politics, in line with UN Security Council resolutions. We believe that occasional and carefully considered contacts with Hezbollah's politicians, including its MPs, will best advance this objective. The distinction is between those members of Hezbollah who are legitimately involved in Lebanese politics and those who are involved in violence and support terrorism.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contacts the Government have had with Hezbollah's political wing since their recent change of policy on contacts with that organisation. [277374]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** On 9 January [illegible] our ambassador in Beirut attended a meeting of [illegible] parliamentarians with the Lebanese Foreign Affairs Committee. Representatives of all members of the National Unity Government were present, including one MP from Hezbollah's political wing, Ali Amar. During this meeting the ambassador urged all sides to show restraint during the crisis in Gaza, and spoke of the importance of all sides respecting the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. In the course of normal diplomatic business, staff at our embassy in Beirut have also met Hezbollah politicians on a number of occasions.

We continue to believe that occasional and carefully considered contacts with Hezbollah's politicians, including its MPs, will best advance our objective of urging Hezbollah to reject violence and play a constructive, democratic and peaceful role in Lebanese politics, in line with UN Security Council resolutions.

### Iraq: Reconstruction

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 512W, on departmental public expenditure, for what reasons his Department has determined that it is more cost effective to manage major contracts in Iraq in London. [279808]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** It is more cost effective to manage the major contracts from London as support costs for the responsible officers are significantly lower than for officers based in Iraq.

### Nepal: Diplomatic Service

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what channels of communication his Department has with British nationals in Nepal. [280278]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Our embassies and high commissions use a number of channels to communicate with British nationals. These include travel advice, wardens networks, LOCATE—an on-line registering facility—the internet and local media.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans are in place for the safety of British nationals in Nepal in the case of an emergency. [280345]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** All our embassies and high commissions are required to hold a Post Emergency Plan and, where deemed necessary, a Civil Contingency Plan. Our embassy in Kathmandu holds both. These plans are designed to help our Diplomatic Missions respond to any crisis they may face, including dealing with consular emergencies, civil unrest or in some cases evacuating British nationals. All plans are reviewed regularly and tested at least annually. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Consular Crisis Group oversees the review process of these plans, and will assist our embassy in Kathmandu to test its emergency response plans by running a semi-live exercise later this year.

### North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he has had with his *(a)* Chinese and *(b)* Russian counterparts to discuss the nuclear threat from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the last two years. [279103]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** China and Russia have both been key players in the Six Party Talks on Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) denuclearisation, and the UK has maintained close dialogue with both Governments at ministerial, ambassadorial and working levels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed DPRK with Russian colleagues at the last meeting of G8 Foreign Ministers, and with Chinese colleagues at the UK-China Summit in February 2009.

### Royal Visits: Expenditure

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has paid towards the cost of visits abroad by members of the Royal Family in each of the last 10 years. [279856]

**Chris Bryant:** The information to provide a comprehensive answer is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Figures held by Protocol Directorate with estimates from overseas posts since 2005 show that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent in the region of:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 424,056 |
| 2006-07 | 351,389 |
| 2007-08 | 602,248 |
| 2008-09 | 358,178 |

The costs include accommodation, staffing, communications, office costs, interpreting, press and public affairs and official hospitality. Travel costs to the countries of destination are funded by the grant in aid held by the Department for Transport.

### Saed Jamal Abu-Hijleh

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the death of the mother of Saed Jamal Abu-Hijleh in Nablus in 2002. [278879]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have not received any recent representation on the death of the mother of Saed Jamal Abu-Hijleh. However, the UK has long condemned all attacks on innocent civilians and will continue to do so.

### Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on the treatment of those who provided medical and financial assistance to the Tamil people during the recent conflict in that country. [280204]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are aware of reports of the ongoing detention of individuals who provided medical assistance during the recent conflict in Sri Lanka. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made representations on their behalf to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Bogollagama, most recently when they met in London on 5 June 2009.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of civilians killed *(a)* by the Sri Lankan army and *(b)* by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the recent conflict in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [280289]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** During the recent conflict in Sri Lanka there have been many conflicting reports of the number of civilians killed by both sides, particularly in the final weeks of the fighting. As the conflict took place without independent monitoring and with severe restrictions on the media, it is very difficult to estimate the number of casualties or who was responsible. As such, we fully endorse the EU's call for an independent inquiry into the recent conflict in Sri Lanka. This would play an important part in the post-conflict reconciliation process.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of alleged war crimes during the recent conflict in Sri Lanka; what steps he is taking in collaboration with his international counterparts to establish the veracity of such reports; and if he will make a statement. [280392]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, we fully endorse the EU's calls for an independent inquiry into allegations of violations of international law in the recent conflict in Sri Lanka. It could play an important role in the post-conflict reconciliation process. As such, we welcome the joint statement by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and President Rajapakse of Sri Lanka underlining the importance of an accountability process for addressing possible violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. We will continue to press for progress on this with international partners, above all the EU and UN.

### Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on the registration of those held in internally displaced persons camps in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [280203]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** I have been asked to reply.

The Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the High Commissioner in Colombo and I have all urged the Government of Sri Lanka, at the highest levels, to ensure that internally displaced persons (IDPs) be treated in accordance with accepted international standards and guidelines.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Tamil civilians in internally displaced persons camps in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [280290]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** I have been asked to reply.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), around 284,000 civilians fled the fighting in the Vanni, between September 2008 and May 2009. Roughly 263,000 are being accommodated in 22 emergency shelter sites in Vavuniya. A further 11,000 people are being accommodated in 11 emergency shelter sites in Jaffna, 6,700 people in two sites in Trincomalee and some 400 people in two sites in Mannar.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on the freedom of the press *(a)* in Sri Lanka and *(b)* to visit and report on (i) Tamil areas and (ii) camps for internally displaced persons; and if he will make a statement. [280307]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have regularly called on the Sri Lankan Government to take decisive action to guarantee press freedom in Sri Lanka, following a number of attacks and intimidation of the media. We have also called on them to allow access to the camps set up for internally displaced people.

The UK raised our concerns about media freedom in Sri Lanka at the UN Human Rights Council Session in March 2009. My right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary's most recent statement on Sri Lanka was on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 73WS.

### Sri Lanka: International Assistance

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan Government on their recent decision to turn away the Vanni Mercy Mission ship MV Captain Ali; and if he will make a statement. [280598]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have had no discussions with the Government of Sri Lanka about the ship, MV Captain Ali, since it left Sri Lankan waters. Our clear position throughout has been that assistance should be delivered through the correct humanitarian channels and with the necessary clearances.

We remain greatly concerned at the humanitarian situation facing the 280,000 civilians displaced by the recent fighting in Sri Lanka and have committed a total of £12.5 million of humanitarian assistance since September 2008, channelled through UN and independent humanitarian agencies.

We continue to press for full and unhindered access to the UN and other humanitarian organisations on the ground.

### West Bank

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department is providing to Lieutenant General Keith Dayton in training Palestinian security forces in the West Bank. [278640]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government provide, at a cost of £2.3 million a year from the Conflict Prevention Pool, a civil-military team to assist the work of General Dayton, the US Security Co-ordinator (USSC). The British Support Team (BST) to the USSC is based in Ramallah, led by a serving British Army Brigadier with a staff of 11 personnel. The BST acts as the USSC's direct link with the Palestinian Authority in supporting the development of the Palestinian National Security Force. In addition, the UK provides direct personnel support to General Dayton's headquarters in Jerusalem in the form of two serving military staff officers and a retired police officer.

### Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness and stability of the power-sharing Government in Zimbabwe. [279786]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* Through their Global Political Agreement (GPA), the Inclusive Government (IG) have committed themselves to a package of reforms that will restore security and welfare to Zimbabwe's people, and promote respect for human rights and the rule of law. They have made an effective start to this work: a credible short-term economic recovery plan (STERP) has been published and is beginning to be acted upon, and the payment of public workers has seen some civic organs functioning again. However, several vital aspects of the GPA remain to be implemented; the continued harassment of human rights defenders, arbitrary arrests and intimidation, increased farm invasions and lack of press freedom all remain a concern. Without major progress in these areas the IG will not have kept their promises to the Zimbabwean people, and the international community will be unable fully to re-engage with Zimbabwe.

Tensions and differences of attitude to reform and its pace remain; not surprising when the IG bring together erstwhile political foes. We will continue to look actively for ways of supporting the IG in their efforts to achieve reforms, offering assistance which promotes and strengthens positive change. We are in regular contact with the Government to discuss how this can best be achieved and we maintain close dialogue on this with our EU and international partners.

## TREASURY

### Banks: Finance

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a summary of representations received by his Department on the management of UK Financial Investments' controlling interest in banks in the last two years. [280279]

**Ian Pearson:** Treasury Ministers receive advice and input on a wide range of issues, from a variety of individuals and organisations in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and analysis. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of advice given to the Treasury.

### Banks: Tax Avoidance

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 637W, on banks: tax avoidance, to which sentences of the statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 654, on G20 Finance Ministers' meeting, the answer refers. [280693]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer has stated on 16 March that he had

> "asked Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to publish shortly a draft code of practice on taxation for the banking sector, so that banks comply with not just the letter but the spirit of the law".

The code will be issued shortly.

### Business: Government Assistance

**John Barrett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any consortiums have requested loans from his Department's Infrastructure Finance Unit. [280094]

**Ian Pearson:** The Manchester Waste Authority, through DEFRA, requested a loan for their project. The Treasury's Infrastructure Finance Unit (TIFU) provided £120 million, which contributed to the project reaching financial close on 8 April.

### Financial Ombudsman Service

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the time taken by the Financial Ombudsman Service to deal with complaints; what monitoring takes place of the time taken by the Financial Ombudsman Service to respond to complaints; and if he will make a statement. [280917]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government have received representations regarding the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) following a sudden and unprecedented influx of cases about payment protection insurance and credit card charges, which has meant that waiting times at the FOS are currently longer than the FOS and its users would like.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) approves the budget of the FOS and has a duty to ensure that the FOS is at all times capable of exercising its functions. The FSA has approved an increase in the FOS' budget enabling it to implement a range of initiatives to deal with this influx and the FOS is confident that the FOS will be able to work through these challenges effectively in the months ahead.

### Financial Services: Carbon Emissions

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that the UK's international financial services sector is globally competitive in carbon trading. [280331]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Government are committed to ensuring that the UK's international financial services industry remains an essential and important part of the global economy. The UK is globally competitive in carbon trading, hosting over 50 per cent. of volume of the global carbon market. In line with broader commitments to fair, stable and efficient financial markets, the Government have recently introduced legislation to improve the efficiency and accessibility of UK carbon auctions, as set out in Budget 2009. The Government also have a business advice office to support and promote UK private sector involvement in the international carbon market.

### Financial Services: EU Action

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer where the headquarters of the *(a)* European Systemic Risk Board and *(b)* European System of Financial Supervisors will be. [280234]

**Ian Pearson:** The Chancellor will be discussing strengthening EU regulatory and supervisory arrangements with European colleagues over the coming months.

### Landfill Tax

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 910W, on taxation: construction, if he will take into account the environmental impact of sourcing of the construction materials that become landfill waste in determining levels of landfill tax; and if he will make a statement. [280201]

**Mr. Timms:** In addition to the lower rate of landfill tax for inert waste, the Government introduced the aggregates levy in 2002 with the primary objective of internalising the environmental costs of quarrying on commercially exploited rock, sand and gravel. The levy encourages the use of recycled aggregates and alternative materials. The levy has been a significant factor in reducing sales of virgin aggregates in England by around 18 million tonnes between 2001 and 2005, with an estimated increase in the use of recycled aggregate of nearly 6 million tonnes.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chief Secretary to the Treasury plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 15 April 2009, on funding for services for people with learning disabilities. [281133]

**Mr. Byrne:** Receipt of the correspondence could not be traced. The hon. Member's office has been asked for a copy which will be responded to as soon as possible after receipt.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when allocations of capital spending for Government departments from 2011 onwards will be made; and if he will make a statement. [280334]

**Mr. Byrne:** Allocations of capital spending for Government Departments from 2011 onwards will be made in the normal way at the next spending review.

### Revenue and Customs: Closures

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) planned office closures on average times taken by HMRC to reply to correspondence from members of the public. [280672]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is consolidating staff and work in fewer locations in the interests of greater efficiency. The offices to be closed are those that are surplus to business requirements, and their closure should therefore have no adverse effect on the times taken to deal with correspondence. The streamlining of processes and introduction of new working methods, including improvements to IT systems, should lead to longer-term improvements in HMRC's service to customers.

### Revenue and Customs: Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each HM Revenue and Customs office in each of the last five years. [280313]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs hold information on the grade of officer and not their role.

### Taxation: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an estimate of the amount of advertising expenditure deducted from profits before tax by businesses producing alcoholic drinks in 2008-09. [280655]

**Mr. Timms:** No estimates are available, as tax returns do not separately identify the amount of expenditure deducted from profits by businesses.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012: Finance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympics archery event at Lord's Cricket Ground. [278867]

**Tessa Jowell:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic Games at existing venues. The direct costs associated with staging the events at existing venues come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. These costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

### Olympic Games 2012: Haringey

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions her Office has had with Haringey borough to enable it to *(a)* participate fully in and *(b)* receive a legacy from the London 2012 Olympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [257280]

**Tessa Jowell:** I met with the Leader of Haringey council and other council officials on 6 February 2008 to discuss Haringey's plans to engage with and benefit from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) met local councillors and business representatives on 8 January 2009 in Haringey to talk about the employment and training opportunities across the park, and to plan events to support businesses in Haringey. Haringey is a member of the north London sub-regional partnership and the ODA hope to hold an event with this partnership before the end of 2009.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Correspondence

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of letters to his Department from hon. Members' parliamentary offices were answered within 30 days of the date of receipt in each quarter from January 2008 to March 2009. [280469]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department aims to respond to queries from Members of Parliament and Peers within 20 working days. Performance is detailed in the Department's annual reports and is also reported to Parliament each year by written statement.

Information relating to performance within 30 days could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Electricity

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280953]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The percentage of electricity derived from renewable sources is as follows:

2006-07—100 per cent.

2007-08—100 per cent.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agency in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280519]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The electricity and gas used by the Department and the Royal Parks on its office estate is detailed in the following table.

| | *Electricity Kwh* | *Gas Kwh* |
|---|---|---|
| *Department for Culture, Media and Sport* | | |
| 1999-2000 | n/a | n/a |
| 2000-01 | n/a | n/a |
| 2001-02 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002-03 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003-04 | 4,368,192 | 3,275,860 |
| 2004-05 | 4,186,267 | 2,643,861 |
| 2005-06 | 4,438,625 | 2,488,443 |
| 2006-07 | 4,320,106 | 2,631,318 |
| 2007-08 | 3,647,784 | 2,135,379 |
| 2008-09 | 3,091,873 | 1,344,409 |
| *The Royal Parks* | | |
| 1999-2000 | n/a | n/a |
| 2000-01 | n/a | n/a |
| 2001-02 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002-03 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003-04 | n/a | n/a |
| 2004-05 | 4,141,338 | 1,275,682 |
| 2005-06 | 3,346,056 | 1,402,580 |
| 2006-07 | 3,220,032 | 1,505,334 |
| 2007-08 | 2,995,048 | 1,490,492 |
| 2008-09 | n/a | n/a |

n/a = Not available.

Data are not available prior to April 2004 and since April 2008 the Royal Parks have not recorded data on kwh consumed.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279403]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Special advisers receive training as appropriate to enable them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers".

In the past 12 months one special adviser attended a Health and Safety course held within the Department at a cost of £60.80 plus VAT per person.

### Hillsborough Disaster

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made in identifying files and documents it holds relating to the Hillsborough disaster that can be released. [279539]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** My Department, in partnership with other Departments, is currently developing a Government-wide approach in close liaison with local agencies in South Yorkshire and beyond.

### Sports: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Lottery funding was awarded to sport-related groups in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport in each of the last five years. [279766]

**Mr. Simon:** The tables show the value of lottery awards made in each of the last five years to organisations that are providing community sport opportunities in the Tameside and Stockport metropolitan boroughs.

*Tameside*

| *Financial year* | *Total value of awards (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 2,956,226 |
| 2005-06 | 1,417,902 |
| 2006-07 | 700,351 |
| 2007-08 | 894,669 |
| 2008-09 | 798,137 |

*Stockport*

| *Financial year* | *Total value of awards (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 2,333,633 |
| 2005-06 | 368,986 |
| 2006-07 | 168,884 |
| 2007-08 | 708,891 |
| 2008-09 | 245,173 |

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Christmas Bonus

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons Mr. John Coombe of Brixham did not receive a £10 Christmas bonus payment and subsequent additional £60 bonus payment under the Real Help for Pensioners Christmas bonus payment scheme; and if she will make a statement. [278463]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The acting chief executive of the Pensions, Disability and Carers Service has responded to the hon. Member separately on 3 June 2009 with the information requested relating to his constituent Mr. John Coombe of Brixham.

### Departmental Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Pension Service office in each of the last five years. [279288]

**Angela Eagle:** The information available detailing the numbers of staff deployed overall in the former Pension Service at the end of each of the last five financial years is in the table.

*As at March each year*

| | *2005*[1] | *2006*[1] | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Band A/AA | 1,577 | 1,169 | 1,014 | 830 | 791 |
| Band B/AO | 8,816 | 7,425 | 6,765 | 5,790 | 5,557 |
| Band C/EO | 4,650 | 4,070 | 3,750 | 3,090 | 2,776 |
| Band D/HEO | 923 | 780 | 683 | 568 | 425 |
| Band E/SEO | 271 | 237 | 309 | 288 | 245 |
| Band F/UG7 | 108 | 97 | 106 | 98 | 88 |
| Band G/UG6 | 52 | 46 | 53 | 73 | 49 |
| SCS | 23 | 21 | 22 | 24 | 18 |
| Total | [2]16,419 | [2]13,846 | [2]12,701 | [2]10,762 | 9,949 |

[1] March 2005 and 2006 inc. Pensions Client Group.
[2] Difference of one due to roundings.

*Notes:*
1. Bands A/AA through to Band B/AO—administration staff of which 6,268 (99 per cent.) are deployed on benefit delivery with just 80 (1 per cent.) deployed in Central Services (Administration).
2. Band C/EO through to Band D/HEO—junior management of which 2,639 (82 per cent.) are deployed on benefit delivery and 562 (18 per cent.) deployed in Central Services (Executive Support).
3. Band E/SEO through to Band G/G6—middle management of which 171 (45 per cent.) are deployed on benefit deliver and 211 (55 per cent.) deployed in Central Services (Specialist and Delivery Managers).
4. SCS—all Directors and senior management of which four (22 per cent.) are deployed on benefit delivery and 14 (78 per cent.) in Central Services (Directors).

*Source:*
DWP Corporate Workforce Planning and DWP Data view as at 31 March 2009

*Background information*

Grading and staffing numbers in Pension Service offices over the last five years have fluctuated according to business needs. Historic data are not available to the level of detail asked for, but the summary table shows the numbers employed in each grade at the end of the last five financial years. Additionally, the number of, and location of, Pension Service offices has also changed.

In April 2008 the merger of the Pension Service and Disability and Carer Service took place and Pension, Disability and Carers Service was formed. There are currently 9,949 staff exclusively deployed on former Pension Service business.

## Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receiving fuel assistance as a result of being disabled or long-term ill-health are also eligible for fuel assistance due to their age. [279105]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

## Pension Credit

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her policy is on issuing reminders to people who are due to become eligible for pension credit; and if she will make a statement. [278011]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The Government are committed to ensuring pensioners receive the support they are entitled to. The Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) contacts all pensioner households to tell them about pension credit, to ensure everyone who is likely to be entitled to pension credit knows what they need to do to take up their entitlement.

A person approaching state pension age will receive a booklet (BR33) telling them how to claim state pension and other benefits and services they are entitled to, including pension credit.

In addition to this, PDCS undertakes regular pension credit campaign activity through multiple channels in order to ensure additional focus on those pensioners who may be eligible.

It is not policy to issue reminders to people about possible entitlement except as part of the targeted campaigns described above.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of those eligible for pension credit have not claimed pension credit in each of the last five years. [278137]

**Angela Eagle:** The latest estimates of the take-up rates, value of unclaimed benefit and the number of those entitled to but not receiving means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income based) are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07".

## Pension Credit: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport received pension credit in each year since its inception. [279761]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is in the following table.

Households in receipt and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Tameside and Stockport November 2003 to November 2008

| | *Tameside* | | *Stockport* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *As at November each year* | *Household recipients* | *Individual beneficiaries* | *Household recipients* | *Individual beneficiaries* |
| 2003 | 9,860 | 11,740 | 9,390 | 11,040 |
| 2004 | 11,740 | 14,130 | 11,790 | 14,050 |
| 2005 | 11,900 | 14,340 | 12,060 | 14,360 |
| 2006 | 11,930 | 14,390 | 12,040 | 14,380 |
| 2007 | 11,870 | 14,380 | 12,100 | 14,480 |
| 2008 | 11,890 | 14,460 | 12,030 | 14,420 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners, some of whom may be under 60 years of age.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

## Pension Protection Fund

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Government plan to stand behind the Pension Protection Fund in circumstances in which its assets and contributions are not sufficient to meet claims made on it. [278389]

**Angela Eagle:** There is no need for the Government to guarantee the Pension Protection Fund. The PPF is designed to work over the long term. With around £3 billion in assets, and a monthly compensation bill of around £4 million, the PPF is able to fund compensation for a long time to come.

## Winter Fuel Payments: Overseas Residence

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the number of British pensioners living abroad who are in receipt of the basic state pension but do not qualify for the winter fuel payment; and if she will make a statement. [279734]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is not available.

# PRIME MINISTER

## BBC External Services

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to reply to the e-petition which closed on 9 April 2009, relating to the BBC World Service, on the Downing Street website. [278153]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply issued on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19451

A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

### British Constitution

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister whom he consulted on his proposals for constitutional reform announced on 10 June 2009; what public consultation he plans to hold on the proposals; and if he will make a statement. [280178]

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Prime Minister what steps the National Council for Democratic Renewal plans to take to consult *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals in the course of its work. [280210]

**The Prime Minister:** Public consultation will be a key part of the proposals for constitutional reform, and the Government will set out their plans for taking this forward shortly.

### Cabinet: Southampton

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Prime Minister what the cost was of holding the meeting of the Cabinet in Southampton on 23 February 2009. [274176]

**The Prime Minister:** The visit of the Cabinet to Southampton on 23 February 2009 was one of several ministerial visits across the region; there was a public engagement event with around 140 local people and a formal Cabinet meeting. The cost of the public engagement event and the Cabinet meeting was approximately £103,802, excluding VAT. This figure includes the cost of hiring the venue, catering, associated security and delegate management. There are no separate figures for the Cabinet meeting. In addition, Departments and agencies will have incurred costs in terms of travel, staff time and other support. The cost of any security provided by the police is a matter for the relevant police force.

### Council for Constitutional Renewal

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister when he expects the Council for Constitutional Renewal to be established; how many members of the Council there will be; by what criteria its membership will be decided; what payment will be provided to Council members for their participation in the Council; what secretariat will be provided for the Council, and with what budget; whether all its deliberations will be held in public; and whether the Council will be a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [278370]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 795-99. As with all Cabinet Committees, the Democratic Renewal Council will be supported by the Cabinet Office, and individual Departments where relevant.

### Democratic Renewal Council and Domestic Policy Council

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister by what means the proceedings of the *(a)* Democratic Renewal Council and *(b)* Domestic Policy Council will be reported to the House; and what estimate has been made of the administrative cost of each body in the next 12 months. [279467]

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Prime Minister whether he has requested the National Council for Democratic Renewal to report recommendations to him within a specified period. [280212]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement I made to the House on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 795-799.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Prime Minister what the official duties and responsibilities are of the First Secretary of State; what change there has been in those duties from those formerly accorded to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; and what arrangements he has made for a Minister to answer questions in the House on the discharge of any new duties. [280189]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the Machinery of Government and Ministerial Appointments press notices issued by my Office. Copies are available in the Library of the House and are also available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19525

and

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19564.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Prime Minister what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Office in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279393]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 182W.

### Enterprise Champion

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Prime Minister what the official duties and responsibilities of the Enterprise Champion are; and which Minister will answer questions in the House on their discharge. [280190]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by my Office on Friday 5 June 2009. A copy is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19515.

### Iraq Conflict

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to consult *(a)* the leaders of Opposition parties represented in the House and *(b)*

the Chair of the Public Administration Select Committee before announcing (i) the terms of reference and (ii) the composition of an inquiry into the Iraq war; and if he will make a statement. [280091]

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Prime Minister what the terms of reference of the planned inquiry into the Iraq war will be; and if he will make a statement. [280142]

**Adam Price:** To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he plans to have with members of other political parties represented in the House on the terms of reference of the forthcoming inquiry into the war in Iraq. [280248]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement I made to the House on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-24.

### Israel: EC External Relations

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the agenda for the EU-Israel Association Council meeting on 15 June 2009; and if he will make a statement. [279752]

**The Prime Minister:** I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what recent discussions he has had with the President of the European Commission on upgrading EU-Israel relations; [279753]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on upgrading EU-Israel relations. [279754]

**The Prime Minister:** I have regular discussions with the president of the European Commission and others on the issue of the middle east and related issues.

### National Council for Democratic Renewal

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Prime Minister whether the recommendations of the National Council for Democratic Renewal will be published. [280208]

**The Prime Minister:** The Democratic Renewal Council will operate in accordance with normal procedures for Cabinet Committees. Proposals from the Committee will be subject to public engagement and consultation where relevant.

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Prime Minister what the budget is of the National Council for Democratic Renewal for 2009-10. [280211]

**The Prime Minister:** As with all Cabinet Committees, the Democratic Renewal Council will be supported by the Cabinet Office, and individual Departments where relevant.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Prime Minister who the members of the National Council for Democratic Renewal are. [280236]

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Prime Minister who the members are of the National Council for Democratic Renewal. [280209]

**The Prime Minister:** A list of members of all Cabinet Committees will be published shortly.

### Parliamentary Private Secretaries

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Prime Minister which hon. Members act as Parliamentary Private Secretaries to Ministers in each Department. [272010]

**The Prime Minister:** Following the recent reshuffle a list of Parliamentary Private Secretaries will be published in the usual manner.

### Senior Salaries Review Body

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to extend the remit of the Review Body on Senior Salaries to enable it to advise public bodies other than those specified in its existing terms of reference. [277531]

**The Prime Minister:** The Review Body on Senior Salaries (SSRB) provides independent advice on the remuneration of holders of judicial office; senior civil servants; senior officers of the armed forces, very senior NHS managers and other such public appointments as may from time to time be specified by the Prime Minister. Full details of the Review Body's remit can be found on the SSRB website:

http://www.ome.uk.com/review.cfm?body=4.

Appropriate pay setting mechanisms are already in place to cover public bodies other than those specified in this remit. In general, approval for the pay of chief executives of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is the responsibility of the parent Department, in consultation with HM Treasury. In making their decision, Departments take account of appropriate market comparators and public sector pay policy. The pay of other executives is normally included in an NDPB's pay remit, which is normally approved by the parent Department.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Young People

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders given to children aged 10 to 17 years old have had reporting restrictions imposed through the discretion of the court under section 39 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 in each of the last 10 years. [280633]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested is not available centrally.

Antisocial behaviour orders are civil orders and therefore not automatically subject to reporting restrictions. ASBOs are designed to protect local communities and their effectiveness will depend on local people knowing about them. However, courts retain the power to impose reporting restrictions if they believe it appropriate to do so.

### DNA: Databases

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what applications to use data from the national DNA database for research purposes have been submitted to his Department since 15 January 2008; and if he will make a statement; [271101]

(2) what applications to his Department to use data from the national DNA database for research purposes have been refused since 13 June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [271102]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Two research applications have been submitted to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) Strategy Board since 15 January 2008. One application was from the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). The ENFSI group has been awarded EC funding to improve the efficiency of DNA data exchange throughout Europe. In order to do this, it is necessary to build a computer simulation model to determine the current efficiency of DNA databases and to carry out a predictive analysis of the effect of not increasing the number of European core loci (i.e. the number of elements of DNA which are common to different countries' profiling systems). This application is still being considered.

The second research application was from a specialist working group set up by the Forensic Science Regulator to verify the outputs of familial search algorithms. "Familial searching" is the term used to describe the process of searching the NDNAD for profiles which are similar but not identical to a DNA profile left at a crime scene. Such searches are approved only in serious cases and can provide police with a lead on the identity of an offender by providing matches with possible family members. This application has been approved.

No research applications have been refused since 13 June 2008.

### Entry Clearances

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the target time is for the processing of an application to the UK Border Agency for a sponsor licence; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum time taken to process an application for such a licence was in the latest period for which figures are available. [278275]

**Mr. Woolas:** The target time for processing a sponsor licence application from 1 April 2009 is 20 working days. The average time taken to process an application is currently 34 days for applications received on or after 1 April 2009. This is due primarily to high volumes of applications in particular areas, each of which must be subject to a rigorous set of checks.

The maximum time taken to process an application was 274 days which was due to delays in receiving information from the sponsor organisation and difficulties trying to arrange and conduct a pre-licensing visit.

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 168-69W, on immigration: EU nationals, what steps he is taking to ensure that EEA residence cards are issued no later than six months after the date on which the application and documents are received. [280432]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Secretary of State has increased the resources committed to European casework. Improvements have also been made to the training and mentoring packages for caseworkers completing European applications, all of which has led to improved results.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has established a timetable for the processing of applications for residence permits for *(a)* EEA nationals and *(b)* family members of EEA nationals. [280470]

**Mr. Woolas:** The agency is committed to completing all EEA applications types within six months of date of receipt by the end of November 2009.

### Immigration Controls

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications under the highly-skilled migrants programme have been refused because applicants' savings fell below the required level in each year that the scheme has operated. [272236]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information is not available in the format requested because it is not centrally recorded.

### Immigration Controls: Overseas Students

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many academic institutions have successfully registered as sponsors with the UK Border Agency under tier 4 of the points-based immigration system; and how many such institutions made applications to register which were rejected. [271294]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* There are at present just less than 1,600 educational establishments on the register of sponsors under tier 4 of the points-based system.

Over 500 applications for sponsorship have been unsuccessful, including those applications rejected, refused and withdrawn, of which around 30 were from organisations identifying themselves as universities or educational establishments.

Figures provided have been rounded to the nearest five.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

### Immigration: Gurkhas

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the progress of reviewing the right to live in the UK of Gurkhas who retired before 1997. [243126]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the announcement made by my right hon. Friend the former Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith) on 21 May 2009. Former members of the Brigade of Gurkhas discharged before 1 July 1997 and who have served a minimum of four years are now eligible to apply for settlement in the UK.

## Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 29 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Cindy Douglas. [280434]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 27 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. M Ghosi; [280436]

(3) when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 23 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Fazeelat Akhtar. [280438]

**Alan Johnson:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 16 June 2009.

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 28 April 2009, reference: M10251/9, on asylum and immigration policy. [281132]

**Mr. Woolas:** A response was sent on 14 May 2009. A copy of that response was sent today.

## Personal Records: Data Protection

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Epping Forest of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 174W, on personal records: data protection, for how long automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) data are retained; and under what circumstances ANPR data are deleted from the National ANPR Data Centre. [279619]

**Alan Johnson:** ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) guidance states that ANPR data may be retained for an initial 90 days after collection for viewing by authorised persons for post-crime interrogation and investigation. Data more than 90 days old may then be retained for up to two years if the operational need remains. However these data are partitioned from general viewing. Access is only permitted for major and serious investigations and requires authorisation in each case by a senior officer. This is in line with responsibilities under the Data Protection Act (1984 and 1998).

The National ANPR Data Centre is currently under development and test. Once in live operational use, ANPR data will be deleted as required by police forces in discharging their responsibilities under the Act. Data not required to be retained for operational purposes will be deleted automatically after a prescribed period, and this period will be determined through agreement between the Association of Chief Police Officers, the National Policing Improvement Agency and the Information Commissioner's Office.

## Police: Finance

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much gross revenue council tax police precepts raised in each year, after capping, in each police authority in England and Wales in each year since 1997-98. [279852]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is set out in the following table.

The figures for 2009-10 for Surrey Police Authority are before capping. Any capping action is subject to approval of a draft order currently before the House.

*Gross revenue council tax police precepts*

*£ million*

| *Force* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 25.6 | 27.2 | 30.6 | 34.4 | 37.4 | 43.4 | 58.6 | 66.3 | 70.3 | 74.4 | 80.4 | 85.3 | 89.7 |
| Bedfordshire | 9.5 | 10.2 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.3 | 15.0 | 18.0 | 20.9 | 22.1 | 23.4 | 24.7 | 27.5 | 28.7 |
| Cambridgeshire | 11.7 | 11.2 | 12.3 | 14.9 | 16.5 | 23.1 | 28.0 | 32.6 | 34.6 | 36.7 | 39.4 | 42.0 | 44.5 |
| Cheshire | 17.1 | 18.3 | 19.4 | 21.2 | 22.6 | 25.9 | 31.3 | 35.0 | 37.0 | 39.4 | 42.6 | 50.3 | 52.5 |
| Cleveland | 8.6 | 7.6 | 9.9 | 10.4 | 11.2 | 15.5 | 19.5 | 22.4 | 23.8 | 25.1 | 26.5 | 29.3 | 30.8 |
| Cumbria | 9.2 | 11.6 | 12.6 | 13.7 | 14.9 | 16.6 | 21.8 | 25.7 | 26.8 | 28.3 | 29.9 | 31.7 | 33.2 |
| Derbyshire | 15.1 | 17.0 | 19.8 | 21.6 | 23.2 | 28.5 | 34.9 | 38.7 | 40.9 | 43.1 | 45.6 | 48.0 | 52.5 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 26.3 | 25.8 | 28.9 | 32.2 | 34.2 | 41.2 | 58.2 | 65.8 | 70.1 | 74.2 | 78.6 | 85.7 | 90.4 |
| Dorset | 16.6 | 18.6 | 20.7 | 22.7 | 24.9 | 28.1 | 33.8 | 37.9 | 40.5 | 42.8 | 45.4 | 47.9 | 50.5 |
| Durham | 8.9 | 8.3 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.9 | 11.4 | 14.1 | 16.4 | 17.4 | 18.4 | 25.1 | 26.7 | 27.8 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 8.2 | 10.2 | 12.6 | 14.9 | 16.1 | 17.5 | 22.4 | 26.1 | 28.0 | 29.9 | 31.8 | 33.9 | 35.7 |
| Essex | 29.3 | 34.1 | 36.1 | 40.2 | 42.5 | 46.8 | 56.5 | 60.8 | 64.8 | 69.1 | 73.2 | 77.6 | 81.9 |
| Gloucestershire | 10.0 | 11.4 | 13.8 | 15.8 | 16.8 | 19.4 | 29.6 | 33.0 | 34.6 | 36.7 | 38.9 | 41.1 | 42.7 |
| Greater Manchester | 40.2 | 42.0 | 45.0 | 47.1 | 48.9 | 52.2 | 69.8 | 75.5 | 81.1 | 85.8 | 90.8 | 98.8 | 106.8 |
| Gwent | 8.7 | 9.7 | 10.7 | 13.7 | 15.4 | 17.7 | 22.4 | 26.4 | 28.5 | 30.1 | 32.0 | 33.7 | 35.2 |
| Hampshire | 31.8 | 31.1 | 33.6 | 34.7 | 37.5 | 48.2 | 62.8 | 70.9 | 75.0 | 79.3 | 84.0 | 91.6 | 96.7 |
| Hertfordshire | 17.6 | 20.2 | 22.0 | 28.1 | 30.2 | 33.9 | 41.4 | 47.7 | 50.3 | 53.4 | 56.6 | 60.2 | 63.4 |
| Humberside | 13.4 | 13.6 | 14.3 | 15.9 | 22.7 | 25.5 | 30.7 | 35.9 | 37.8 | 39.9 | 42.2 | 44.3 | 46.2 |
| Kent | 28.7 | 27.2 | 29.8 | 31.9 | 34.8 | 42.8 | 55.9 | 63.0 | 67.0 | 70.9 | 75.2 | 79.7 | 84.3 |

*Gross revenue council tax police precepts*

£ million

| Force | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lancashire | 22.9 | 23.1 | 25.2 | 27.6 | 30.2 | 33.1 | 39.6 | 45.9 | 49.4 | 52.3 | 58.6 | 63.4 | 66.3 |
| Leicestershire | 14.5 | 17.1 | 18.1 | 19.4 | 21.8 | 27.9 | 31.0 | 35.9 | 38.2 | 40.5 | 42.9 | 49.9 | 51.8 |
| Lincolnshire | 13.4 | 15.5 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.7 | 19.9 | 22.3 | 24.3 | 26.2 | 28.0 | 29.7 | 38.1 | 40.3 |
| Merseyside | 27.0 | 29.1 | 31.4 | 33.2 | 35.3 | 39.3 | 42.3 | 46.2 | 48.9 | 51.5 | 54.1 | 56.7 | 59.3 |
| Metropolitan | 181.8 | 222.3 | 241.3 | 248.2 | 324.6 | 361.4 | 443.7 | 521.3 | 560.5 | 607.42 | 649.0 | 665.0 | 662.0 |
| Norfolk | 13.0 | 14.0 | 17.0 | 19.3 | 22.6 | 27.4 | 33.7 | 39.0 | 41.3 | 44.0 | 47.4 | 52.0 | 54.5 |
| North Wales | 11.2 | 13.6 | 15.7 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 23.6 | 31.3 | 38.0 | 42.4 | 45.0 | 48.5 | 51.2 | 54.0 |
| North Yorkshire | 13.0 | 12.8 | 14.0 | 15.4 | 17.2 | 24.6 | 43.6 | 49.0 | 50.6 | 522 | 54.2 | 57.1 | 59.0 |
| Northamptonshire | 13.4 | 13.4 | 15.1 | 16.0 | 17.0 | 22.0 | 27.7 | 32.2 | 33.7 | 36.0 | 38.2 | 40.9 | 43.1 |
| Northumbria | 21.3 | 19.4 | 20.3 | 21.2 | 22.9 | 24.1 | 26.6 | 28.1 | 29.6 | 30.5 | 31.9 | 33.8 | 35.1 |
| Nottinghamshire | 14.9 | 16.4 | 18.7 | 20.0 | 21.7 | 26.5 | 34.4 | 38.1 | 40.4 | 42.6 | 45.0 | 47.6 | 50.3 |
| South Wales | 19.5 | 22.4 | 26.2 | 32.5 | 34.8 | 36.7 | 42.7 | 48.4 | 52.9 | 56.5 | 59.9 | 63.6 | 67.0 |
| South Yorkshire | 18.9 | 19.3 | 20.2 | 21.2 | 22.6 | 26.9 | 34.4 | 38.0 | 40.0 | 42.3 | 44.7 | 47.0 | 48.8 |
| Staffordshire | 17.7 | 23.6 | 25.8 | 27.5 | 31.5 | 34.0 | 43.1 | 47.5 | 50.3 | 53.4 | 56.4 | 58.8 | 61.4 |
| Suffolk | 11.3 | 11.7 | 12.6 | 13.9 | 15.5 | 19.1 | 25.7 | 28.7 | 30.2 | 32.0 | 34.1 | 37.5 | 39.4 |
| Surrey | 15.0 | 22.5 | 25.7 | 36.9 | 38.9 | 45.4 | 63.8 | 69.8 | 73.8 | 78.7 | 83.2 | 92.0 | 96.8 |
| Sussex | 29.1 | 29.0 | 30.6 | 32.2 | 34.6 | 41.1 | 57.9 | 63.4 | 67.1 | 71.0 | 75.6 | 79.9 | 83.7 |
| Thames Valley | 40.0 | 39.5 | 44.5 | 47.9 | 51.7 | 59.2 | 86.1 | 98.6 | 104.2 | 110.8 | 117.82 | 123.9 | 130.0 |
| Warwickshire | 9.2 | 11.0 | 12.8 | 14.0 | 15.7 | 19.0 | 22.1 | 24.1 | 25.5 | 27.0 | 28.6 | 32.6 | 34.0 |
| West Mercia | 19.7 | 21.1 | 23.4 | 29.8 | 32.0 | 43.0 | 49.7 | 57.9 | 60.7 | 64.3 | 68.0 | 71.7 | 75.5 |
| West Midlands | 39.6 | 36.6 | 38.4 | 41.3 | 43.3 | 47.2 | 54.5 | 61.3 | 64.6 | 68.0 | 71.6 | 74.9 | 77.9 |
| West Yorkshire | 31.8 | 31.8 | 33.5 | 36.2 | 37.9 | 47.8 | 56.1 | 64.7 | 69.0 | 73.2 | 77.8 | 82.3 | 85.5 |
| Wiltshire | 11.8 | 13.6 | 15.1 | 16.8 | 18.7 | 20.7 | 25.2 | 27.9 | 29.6 | 31.6 | 33.6 | 35.6 | 37.7 |

*Sources:*
English Police Authorises - Communities and Local Government
Welsh Police Authorises - Welsh Assembly Government

## Reparation by Offenders

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of mechanisms for restorative justice. [280265]

**Claire Ward:** I have been asked to reply.

Following the final report of the evaluation of the crime reduction programme restorative justice pilots, our assessment of the effectiveness of restorative justice for adults is that it can deliver high levels of victim satisfaction and can be a positive service for victims if delivered appropriately and sensitively. It may also help to reduce reoffending.

## Security Guards: Licensing

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will bring forward proposals to require directly-employed security guards to be licensed. [280164]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Security Industry Authority (SIA) recently conducted a review of whether in-house security guards should be licensed.

The SIA concluded that there was no clearly defined or substantiated risk to public protection that would justify extending the licensing requirement to include in-house security guards. Ministers agreed with this conclusion and asked the SIA to review the matter again in the future. The SIA intend to conduct the review in 2012-13, but will do so earlier if evidence of criminality is identified.

The review was published on the SIA website in May 2009 at:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/licensing/in-house.htm

## UK Border Agency: Public Consultation

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency and its predecessors spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [279542]

**Mr. Woolas:** The amounts spent by the UK Border Agency and its predecessors on consultancy are shown in the following table. Information is not available on the spend for 2004-05 except at disproportionate cost.

*UKBA five-year consultancy spend*

£

| | Breakdown of consultancy costs for UKBA | FY 2004-05[1] | FY 2005-06 | FY 2006-07 | FY 2007-08 | FY 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 72504 | *Administrative* Consultancy—Implementation | 6,413,345 | 3,238,876 | 1,408,508 | 1,008,667 | 167,699 |
| 72501 | Consultancy—Management | 7,695,527 | 1,420,733 | 3,277,637 | 3,765,022 | 5,392,701 |
| 72502 | Consultancy—IT | 5,494,501 | 5,292 | 29,337 | 517,530 | 1,894,993 |
| 72503 | Consultancy—Accommodation | 14,070,757 | 293,090 | 490,469 | 295,559 | 121,275 |
| 72534 | Consultancy—Advice | — | — | — | 104,879 | 478,384 |
| 72558 | *Programme* Consultancy—Advice | — | — | — | 889,502 | 3,901,646 |
| 72560 | Consultancies—Management | — | 1,774,537 | 3,080,246 | 15,517,051 | 15,051,823 |

*UKBA five-year consultancy spend*

| | Breakdown of consultancy costs for UKBA | FY 2004-05[1] | FY 2005-06 | FY 2006-07 | FY 2007-08 | £ FY 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 72561 | Consultancies—IT | — | 5,615,396 | 4,705,034 | 5,544,364 | 2,054,586 |
| 72562 | Consultancies—Accommodation | — | 12,414,256 | 6,603,016 | 3,715,016 | 1,253,129 |
| 72555 | Consultancies—Other (programme costs) | 58 | 29,356,401 | 24,271,119 | 3,460,274 | 2,269,130 |
| | Adjusted for +1.3m against "0148 UKBA Inter") | | | 1.3m | | |
| | Total | 33,674,188 | 54,118,580 | 43,865,365 | 34,817,865 | 33,885,366 |

[1] The 2004-05 data represent the first year of a new financial database and thus do not represent a full year's consultancy cost

## Waste Management: Prosecutions

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been sought under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in each local authority area in the South West in each of the last five years; and how many such prosecutions were successful. [280257]

**Claire Ward:** I have been asked to reply.

The number of defendants who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 sec. 33, in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the table.

It is not possible to identify data at local authority area level, as the data are not collected at this level of detail. Police force area data for the South West region have been provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Prosecution figures are only for cases taken through the court system and do not reflect the full range of enforcement actions available to local authorities.

In 2007-08 local authorities took a wide range of additional enforcement actions against fly-tippers, including warning letters, statutory notices, formal cautions and injunctions.

*Number of defendants who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 sec.33, in the South West area, by police force area 2003 to 2007[1,2,3,4]*

*Offence code: 9115, 9116, 9137*

| Police force area (PFA)/ region | Proceeded against 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Found guilty 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset PFA | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| Devon and Cornwall PPA | 16 | 25 | 22 | 16 | 30 | 11 | 20 | 21 | 10 | 25 |
| Dorset PFA | 1 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Gloucestershire PFA | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Wiltshire PFA | 3 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| South West Region | 25 | 34 | 42 | 35 | 56 | 23 | 29 | 34 | 20 | 47 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
9115—Environmental Protection Act 1990 sec.33(8).
Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition, treating, keeping or disposing of controlled (but not special) waste in or on land without a licence.
9116—Environmental Protection Act 1990 sec.33(9).
Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition of controlled special waste in or on land without a licence.
9137—Environmental Protection Act 1990 sec.33(6).
Contravening conditions of a waste management licence.
[4] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the proceeding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year.
*Source:*
OCJR—E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

## Wildlife: Crime

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total revenue from fines for offences related to wildlife crime was in each of the last 10 years. [280361]

**Claire Ward:** I have been asked to reply.

The total revenue from fines for any particular offence is not collected by the courts.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions: Standards

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable he has set for completion of his Department's consultation on the term carbon neutral; how many responses to that consultation have been received to date; and if he will make a statement. [278274]

**Joan Ruddock:** The consultation closed on 21 May 2009. There were 59 responses; they are currently being considered in detail. A summary of the responses, and an explanation of our intended next steps, will be published later this year.

## DEFENCE

### Air Force: Military Aircraft

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF aircraft are in service; and what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual number of each type of RAF aircraft fit for purpose is. [279949]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Information on the numbers of aircraft in service and fit for purpose (FFP) is given in the following table. Target figures are not used for all aircraft types and are included only where appropriate. The figures shown are a snapshot of the position on 31 May 2009.

| *Aircraft type* | *In service fleet* | *Target FFP* | *Actual FFP* |
|---|---|---|---|
| BAe 146 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| BAe 125 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| C-17 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| Dominie | 9 | — | 7 |
| Harrier | 74 | — | 46 |
| Hawk T1 | 129 | — | 88 |
| Hawk T2 | 8 | — | 6 |
| Hercules C130K | 14 | 7 | 7 |
| Hercules C130J | 24 | 15 | 14 |
| Nimrod MR2 | 11 | 8 | 6 |
| Nimrod R1 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Sea King (SARF) | 25 | 17 | 10 |
| Sentinel | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Sentry | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| Tornado F3 | 62 | — | 28 |
| Tornado GR4 | 138 | — | 89 |
| TriStar | 9 | 6 | 4 |
| Tucano | 95 | — | 55 |
| Typhoon | 56 | — | 37 |
| VC10 | 16 | 12 | 9 |
| Vigilant | 64 | — | 64 |
| Viking | 82 | — | 82 |

'In service' has been taken to mean the effective fleet, which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. Serviceable aircraft available to the front line commands for operational and training purposes are termed fit for purpose (FFP). Aircraft which are undergoing major servicing or routine maintenance are within the depth fleet and are therefore not relevant to this question.

Additionally, in the process of answering this question an error in the TriStar 'in-service' fleet number has been identified in the written answer I provided to you on 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 812W. The answer I provided stated that there were eight TriStars 'in-service' but the correct answer should have stated there were nine. This error occurred as one aircraft has been undergoing a major cockpit upgrade and was mistakenly not included in the 'in-service' fleet number.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of forces' accommodation units are in each condition grade in each region in England. [279938]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The following table is the best available breakdown of service families accommodation by location based on the Department's housing regions, and is correct as at 25 March 2009. This updates information given in my answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 884W, and my written ministerial statement of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 43-44WS, and reflects further verification and analysis work including that carried out with the National Audit Office.

| | *S1fC* | | *S2fC* | | *S3fC* | | *S4fC* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Housing region* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *Not assessed* | *Total* |
| East | 1,930 | 40.55 | 2,599 | 54.61 | 213 | 4.47 | 17 | 0.36 | 1,618 | 6,377 |
| London | 1,179 | 20.65 | 3,613 | 63.31 | 800 | 14.02 | 115 | 2.01 | 1,728 | 7,435 |
| North | 2,092 | 52.55 | 1,750 | 43.96 | 112 | 2.81 | 27 | 0.68 | 1,400 | 5,381 |
| South East | 2,797 | 35.47 | 4,631 | 58.73 | 345 | 4.37 | 112 | 1.42 | 1,737 | 9,622 |
| Southwest | 2,255 | 27.04 | 5,664 | 67.92 | 344 | 4.13 | 76 | 0.91 | 1,953 | 10,292 |
| West (inc Wales) | 1,338 | 45.34 | 1,518 | 51.44 | 89 | 3.02 | 6 | 0.20 | 9,10 | 3,861 |
| PFI Properties/Hirings | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2,005 | 2,005 |
| Total | 11,591 | 34.47 | 19,775 | 58.82 | 1,903 | 5.66 | 353 | 1.05 | 11,351 | 44,973 |

Data for the condition of service families accommodation will be updated on a quarterly basis beginning from July 2009, and the information will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Atomic Weapons Establishment

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what quantities of *(a)* intermediate and *(b)* low level radioactive waste are held at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [280423]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The quantity of intermediate level radioactive waste currently held at the Atomic Weapons Establishment is 4,095 cu m. The quantity of low level radioactive waste currently held there is 680 cu m.

### Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated hourly flying time cost is of *(a)* the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft and *(b)* each air-to-air service provider. [280061]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** After full system delivery of the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft the average hourly flying time cost for military usage is estimated to be £20,000. This rate includes all costs associated with provision of military capability (including Defensive Aids Suite), aircraft support, training and associated infrastructure. No equivalent cost is currently available from a commercial air-to-air service provider.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he expects the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft to enter service. [280063]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) introduction to service is planned to begin in 2011, with the full service being available by 2016.

### Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Joint Strike Fighter aircraft his Department plans to purchase in the next five years. [279936]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The procurement process for the Joint Strike Fighter remains at a very early stage. We have not taken the final investment decision and at this stage cannot, therefore, confirm overall numbers or the in-service date. The first investment decision was announced by the Secretary of State on 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 53WS. The decision enables the UK to conduct, alongside the US, a joint Initial Operational Test and Evaluation programme and entails the acquisition of three aircraft, provision of training equipment and support during the trials and a further two years contributions to the Production, Sustainment and Follow-on Development Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2006. Subject to successful testing, we plan to buy further production aircraft incrementally to build up to Initial and then Full Operating Capability.

### Low Flying: Complaints

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints about low-flying military aircraft have been received by each military establishment in the UK in each of the last five years. [280418]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not held in the format requested. The Air Staff, Low Flying Complaints and Enquiries Unit, (CEU) is the organisation responsible for recording complaints about aircraft operating in the UK Military Low Flying system. Complaints may be received direct from the public, or via military units, but records are not maintained of which unit has passed on a particular complaint to the Complaints and Enquiries Unit. Complaints about aircraft operating within the Military Air Traffic Zone surrounding an airbase are normally dealt with by the operating unit directly, and are not included in the centrally recorded figures.

The figures provided in the following table are the total of low flying complaints received at the CEU in each of the last five years.

| *Date* | *Complaints recorded* |
|---|---|
| 1 June 2004 to 31 May 2005 | 4,461 |
| 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006 | 4,536 |
| 1 June 2006 to 31 May 2007 | 4,707 |
| 1 June 2007 to 31 May 2008 | 3,774 |
| 1 June 2008 to 31 May 2009 | 3,472 |

### Military Aircraft

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the hourly cost of air-to-air refuelling of an RAF VC10 is. [280062]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The full-cost hourly rate of operating a VC10 tanker in the air for financial year 2009-10 is calculated to be £29,235. This figure incorporates a variety of costs to enable an aircraft to operate, such as personnel costs, servicing of the aircraft and fuelling of the aircraft. It does not include the costs of the fuel payload VC10s carry to refuel other aircraft.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the out-of-service dates are for the *(a)* VC10 and *(b)* TriStar fleets. [280064]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Under current planning assumptions, the next VC10 will go out-of-service in June 2010 with the last of the fleet going out-of-service in September 2014. This progressive rundown is designed to ensure the smooth and efficient transition of air refuelling capability to the replacement Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft.

The out-of-service dates of the TriStar KC1 and C2 aircraft have been extended by one year to 2016 in order to allow the replacement capability, Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft, to be fitted with the most up-to-date protective measures for flying into operational areas. The out-of-service dates of both the VC10 and TriStar are kept under constant review as part of the Department's internal planning process.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contractual support arrangements there are for the *(a)* RAF VC10 and *(b)* TriStar fleets; and what the cost was in each case in each of the last two years. [280065]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Maintenance of the RAF VC10 fleet is provided by BAE Systems under a partnering agreement called JAVELIN (joint approach to VC10 engineering and logistics integration). Logistic support for the Conway engines used on the VC10 is provided by Rolls-Royce plc and engine repairs are undertaken by Vector Aerospace.

The RAF TriStar fleet is supported by the TriStar integrated operational support contract (TRIOS) with Marshall of Cambridge (Aerospace) Ltd. TRIOS excludes the RB211 engines which are contractually supported by Rolls-Royce plc, the auxiliary power units which are contractually supported by Euravia and the air-to-air refuelling equipment which is supported under the VC10 JAVELIN contract.

The cost of these contractual support arrangements is contained in the following table:

*£ million*

| | *Aircraft* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Financial year* | *VC10* | *TriStar* |
| 2007-08 | 77 | 21 |
| 2008-09 | 70 | 24 |

*Note:*
Costs have been rounded to the nearest million.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equipment failure reports there were in respect of *(a)* TriStar and *(b)* VC10 aircraft in each year since 2003. [280068]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

A Serious Fault Signal (SFS) is the reporting method used to notify the discovery of a fault that may have immediate and serious implications to an aircraft fleet, or range of equipment. The figures provided in the following table are the number of SFS reports received which are directly attributed to the TriStar and VC10.

| | *TriStar* | *VC10* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | [1]— | 0 |
| 2004 | 3 | 4 |
| 2005 | 0 | 2 |
| 2006 | 0 | 2 |
| 2007 | 2 | 1 |
| 2008 | 2 | 4 |
| 2009[2] | 1 | 4 |

[1] Records for 2003 are not held centrally.
[2] Up until 1 June, the last full month for which data are available.

### Navy: Military Aircraft

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of transferring control of the Fleet Air Arm to the Royal Air Force. [280188]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* No such assessment has been made.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many activities requiring the permission of the Defence Nuclear Weapons Regulator have been authorised at Royal Naval Armament Depot Coulport since July 2007. [280424]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** There has been no change to the scope of nuclear activities at the Royal Naval Armament Depot Coulport since July 2007. No additional permissions have, therefore, been required from the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator, which includes the Nuclear Weapons Regulator.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Departmental Reorganisation

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost of establishing the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was. [278950]

**Mr. McFadden:** The cost of setting up the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in June 2007 was met within the existing departmental budgets of the former Department for Education and Skills (now Department for Children, Schools and Families) and the former Department for Trade and Industry.

### Higher Education: Student Numbers

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* applicants and *(b)* accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England there were in each year between 1979 and 1997; and how many such applicants were domiciled in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland. [278342]

**Mr. Lammy:** Information for the years 1994 to 1997 is given in the first and second tables. The figures cover students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS. UCAS does not cover applications to part-time undergraduate or postgraduate courses, or students who apply directly to institutions. Prior to the formation of UCAS in 1994, figures were published separately for the two admission systems, the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) and the Polytechnic and College Admission Service (PCAS). The data for accepted applicants for these years are shown in the third and fourth tables. Comparable data for applicants are not available.

*Applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England via UCAS 1994-97*

| | *UK domiciled students* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Year of entry* | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* | *Northern Ireland* | *Grand total* |
| 1994 | 296,950 | 13,908 | 6,827 | 8,727 | 326,412 |
| 1995 | 287,977 | 12,903 | 7,236 | 8,801 | 316,917 |
| 1996 | 282,018 | 12,459 | 6,768 | 7,524 | 308,769 |
| 1997 | 305,374 | 13,432 | 7,680 | 8,205 | 334,691 |

*Source:*
UCAS

*Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England via UCAS 1994-97*

| | UK domiciled applicants | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* | *Northern Ireland* | *Grand total* |
| 1994 | 198,065 | 6,215 | 1,638 | 1,989 | 207,907 |
| 1995 | 208,439 | 6,199 | 1,848 | 2,110 | 218,596 |
| 1996 | 208,873 | 6,026 | 1,851 | 2,248 | 218,998 |
| 1997 | 239,550 | 6,869 | 2,610 | 2,506 | 251,535 |

*Notes on UCAS applicant data.:*
The applicant figures cover applicants submitting one or more applications to an English institution (in 1994/95 each applicant could submit up to eight applications; this was reduced to six from 1995/96, and to five from 2008/09). Students in this table applying to English institutions may also have applied to institutions in one or more of the other home countries, and some may have been accepted to institutions in those countries.
*Source:*
UCAS

*Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England via UCCA 1979 to 1993*

| | UK domiciled students | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* | *Northern Ireland* | *Total* |
| 1979 | 57,749 | 2,149 | 671 | 671 | 61,240 |
| 1980 | 58,998 | 2,184 | 698 | 722 | 62,602 |
| 1981[1] | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1982[1] | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1983 | 52,398 | 2,028 | 627 | 656 | 55,709 |
| 1984[1] | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1985 | 53,369 | 2,043 | 741 | 683 | 56,836 |
| 1986[1] | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1987[1] | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1988 | 56,088 | 2,390 | 791 | 865 | 60,134 |
| 1989 | 60,502 | 2,395 | 777 | 795 | 64,469 |
| 1990 | 70,625 | 2,636 | 903 | 912 | 75,076 |
| 1991 | 76,679 | 2,678 | 853 | 816 | 81,026 |
| 1992 | 85,069 | 3,023 | 952 | 904 | 89,948 |
| 1993 | 93,427 | 3,109 | 909 | 924 | 98,369 |

[1] Published information on acceptances to English HEIs only is not available for every year.
*Source:*
UCCA annual published reports

*Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in England via PCAS 1986 to 1993*

| | UK domiciled students | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* | *Northern Ireland* | *UK unknown* | *Total* |
| 1986 | 32,454 | 1,454 | 232 | 529 | 20 | 34,689 |
| 1987 | 31,572 | 1,521 | 253 | 677 | 103 | 34,126 |
| 1988 | 35,664 | 1,546 | 267 | 675 | 26 | 38,178 |
| 1989 | 53,301 | 2,193 | 359 | 1,140 | 6 | 56,999 |
| 1990 | 69,653 | 2,659 | 440 | 1,278 | 7 | 74,037 |
| 1991 | 85,461 | 2,897 | 547 | 1,292 | 25 | 90,222 |
| 1992 | 110,434 | 3,303 | 1,148 | 1,372 | 0 | 116,257 |
| 1993 | 112,492 | 3,101 | 1,102 | 1,102 | 0 | 117,797 |

*Source:*
PCAS annual published reports

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Tax

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on who should be responsible for making council tax payments for private sector rented properties. [280909]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Government policy on who is liable for council tax is set out in section 6 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. We have no plans to change this.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance is provided to local councils on the level of council tax that should be paid on second homes. [280914]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Communities and Local Government has not issued any guidance to local councils on the level of council tax that should be paid on second homes. The administration of council tax is the responsibility of individual local authorities and it is they who set the levels of council tax, including any discounts or exemptions.

### Council Tax: Overpayments

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward legislative proposals for local authorities to be required to pay interest to council taxpayers in respect of overpayments of council tax. [280742]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, 2214-15W.

### Departmental Press: Subscriptions

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which *(a)* magazines, *(b)* journals and *(c)* newspapers his Department subscribes; and what the cost of such subscriptions has been in each of the last three years. [280767]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Eco-Towns: Internet

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1690W, on eco-towns: internet, (1) how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions have been received by the ecotownsyoursay.direct.gov.uk website to date; [280652]

(2) what the cost to his Department of the ecotownsyoursay.direct.gov.uk website has been to date. [280722]

**John Healey:** The full cost to the Department of the website

www.direct.gov.uk/ecotownsyoursay

for the financial year 2008-09 will be published shortly after the Department's annual report on the Department's website.

Between 4 November 2008 when the

www.direct.gov.uk/ecotownsyoursay

website was set up and 31 March 2009 it had received 33,220 unique visitors and 164,727 page impressions. Annual statistics on visits will be made available.

### Local Government: Political Activities

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for changing the political restrictions on council group political assistants. [280018]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Any decision will be made as part of our continuing oversight of the framework for ensuring there is clarity about political roles in local government.

### Non-domestic Rates

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the effect of a universal business rate on local economies. [280740]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** No such research has been commissioned or evaluated by Communities and Local Government.

### Non-Domestic Rates

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department takes in respect of the performance of local authorities with national non-domestic rates collection rates below the national average. [280016]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The collection of council tax and business rates is a matter for local authorities. The 2007-08 in-year collection rate for non-domestic rates in England was 98.8 per cent.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [279819]

**Mr. Malik:** For Communities and Local Government as at 1 July there will be approximately nine full-time equivalent staff working on different aspects of the Olympic programme within the central Department. Within this figure around three full-time equivalents work on project and legacy management; three on project oversight; and one on financial oversight. The remainder, two full-time equivalents, work on administration and specialist risk management. There are no immediate plans for a change in the staffing levels but this will be kept under review.

Within the Homes and Communities Agency and the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, work on London 2012 Olympic issues is carried out as it arises in the course of normal business.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer question 280051, tabled on 10 June 2009, on the Home Owner Mortgage Protection Scheme. [281287]

**John Healey:** I have replied to the hon. Member's question.

## HEALTH

### Benzodiazepines

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has evaluated on the safety of use of benzodiazepine tranquillisers in clinical practice; and whether it plans to *(a)* update product information for prescribers and patients and *(b)* take other steps in response to the findings of such research. [280202]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) continuously monitors the safety of all medicines in routine clinical practice in the United Kingdom, and where necessary, takes suitable action to safeguard public health.

The MHRA uses a variety of methods of collecting information on medicines safety in clinical use. Health care professionals and patients are encouraged to report suspected adverse drug reactions via the Yellow Card Scheme, including the occurrence of dependence and addiction. Pharmaceutical companies are legally obliged to report such cases to the MHRA. These data are carefully and regularly screened to identify possible new drug safety signals.

No new safety signals have been identified recently in relation to benzodiazepines which would require further regulatory action individually or as a class. As new data become available the MHRA keeps the need for regulatory action under review.

The current product information for health care professionals and patients accurately reflects the information known about the risks associated with benzodiazepine use and includes extensive warnings. Patient information leaflets are now being user tested to ensure that the advice is clear and accessible for patients.

### Carers: Telephone Services

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the hours of operation are of the Carers Direct hotline. [280626]

**Phil Hope:** The Carers Direct helpline is available from 8 am to 9 pm, Monday to Friday, and 11 am to 4 pm at weekends.

### Healthy Start Scheme

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the relationship is between his Department's Healthy Start scheme and its Change4Life initiative. [280136]

**Gillian Merron:** Healthy Start is a United Kingdom-wide statutory scheme providing a nutritional safety net and encouragement for breastfeeding and healthy eating to pregnant women and families with young children getting one of a range of state benefits or tax credits. The Department manages delivery of the scheme on behalf of all four UK Governments, ensuring that nutritional messages given through the scheme, and any branding used, are acceptable to all of them.

Change4Life is an England-based communications campaign that encourages all families in England to eat healthily and engage in regular physical activity, so reducing levels of obesity. We ensure that both Healthy Start and Change4Life are delivered in a coherent way so that the impact of nutritional messages common to both can be maximised.

## Heart Diseases: Health Services

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1596W, on heart disease (1) how many finished consultant episodes for congenital heart disease in those aged 16 years old there were in each primary care trust area in 2007-08; [279998]

(2) how many of those consultant episodes involving a consultant whose specialism was paediatric cardiology there were in each NHS hospital trust. [279999]

**Ann Keen:** The following tables and notes show how many finished consultant episodes for congenital heart disease in those aged 16 years old there were in primary care trust areas (where data have been submitted) in 2007-08. They also show, for grown-ups with congenital heart disease, how many consultant episodes involved a consultant whose specialism was paediatric cardiology in each national health service hospital trust.

*Count of finished consultant episodes for congenital heart disease* for those aged 16 only, by primary care trust (PCT) of treatment, 2007-08. Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| *PCT code* | *PCT name* | *Total episodes* |
|---|---|---|
| 5D7 | Newcastle PCT | * |
| 5J9 | Darlington PCT | * |
| 5K7 | Camden PCT | 31 |
| 5L1 | Southampton City PCT | * |
| 5LA | Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 26 |
| 5LD | Lambeth PCT | * |
| 5LE | Southwark PCT | 7 |
| 5M1 | South Birmingham PCT | * |
| 5MX | Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 7 |
| 5N1 | Leeds PCT | 8 |
| 5N4 | Sheffield PCT | * |
| 5N6 | Derbyshire County PCT | * |
| 5N9 | Lincolnshire Teaching PCT | * |
| 5NL | Liverpool PCT | 10 |
| 5NT | Manchester PCT | * |
| 5NV | North Yorkshire and York PCT | * |
| 5P2 | Bedfordshire PCT | * |
| 5P8 | Hastings and Rother PCT | * |
| 5PC | Leicester City PCT | 10 |
| 5PW | North East Essex PCT | * |
| 5QE | Oxfordshire PCT | * |
| 5QJ | Bristol PCT | * |
| 5QQ | Devon PCT | * |
| | Total | 130 |

*Count of finished consultant episodes for congenital heart disease* for those aged 16 and over by paediatric cardiology specialty and hospital provider, 2007-08. Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| *Hospital provider code* | *Hospital provider name* | *Total episodes* |
|---|---|---|
| RA7 | United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust | 56 |
| RBS | Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust | 15 |
| RHM | Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust | * |
| RJ1 | Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust | 61 |
| RP4 | Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust | 264 |
| RQ3 | Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 13 |
| RR8 | Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | 76 |
| RT3 | Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust | 14 |
| RTH | Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust | * |
| RWE | University Hospitals Of Leicester NHS Trust | 84 |
| | Total | 593 |

*Notes:*

*Consultant main specialty* This defines the specialty under which the consultant responsible for the care of the patient at that time is registered. Care is needed when analysing Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as "acute"). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other patient or service information. *Ungrossed data* Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed). Finished Consultant Episode (FCE). A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. The figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year. *Primary diagnosis* The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. *The following ICD-10 codes have been used: Q20—Congenital malformations of cardiac chambers and connections Q21—Congenital malformations of cardiac septa Q22—Congenital malformations of pulmonary and tricuspid valves Q23—Congenital malformations of aortic and mitral valves Q24—Other congenital malformations of heart. *Data quality* HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. *Small numbers* To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed. *PCT/SHA data quality* PCT and SHA data were added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data. *Hospital providers* A provider code is a unique code that identifies an organisation acting as a health care provider (e.g. NHS trust or PCT). Hospital providers can also include Treatment Centres (TC). Treatment Centres (also known as Diagnostic Centres) provide elective (planned) surgery for a range of conditions, mainly for day surgery or short-term hospital stay patients. Some Treatment Centres are attached to hospital trusts and HES enables data for these to be separately identified from the rest of the health care provider's data. It does this by adding TC to the trust code; if there is more than one per Trust T1, T2, T3 etc. are suggested unless already in use by the trust. Activity performed in the remainder of the trust is identified by the health care provider code being followed by an 'X'. Hospital providers beginning with an 'N' indicates an independent sector health care provider. *Source:* Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

### Hillsborough Stadium: Disclosure of Information

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in identifying files and documents it holds relating to the Hillsborough disaster that can be released. [279538]

**Phil Hope:** The Department, in partnership with other Departments, is currently developing a Government-wide approach in close liaison with local agencies in South Yorkshire and beyond.

### Influenza

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the provision to local authorities of influenza pandemic preparedness plans produced by *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* hospital trusts, *(c)* health protection units and *(d)* local resilience forums; and what guidance has been issued on co-operation between health authorities and local authorities on (i) overview and (ii) scrutiny of such plans. [280039]

**Gillian Merron:** All departmental guidance, whether produced primarily for the health or social care sector, emphasises the need for multi-agency planning and response.

Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) and Influenza Planning Committees (IPCs) are multi-agency groups, with representatives from primary care trusts (PCTs), local authorities (human resources, emergency planners, adult and children's social care leads, coroners), acute hospital trusts, health protection units, independent and third sector providers, and the police. Multi-agency Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), chaired by a chief executive, may also approve final pandemic flu plans.

PCTs have lead responsibility for pandemic planning and response locally. It is the role of the PCT to consult with its partner local authority and to share plans. Some local authority social care departments have a joint pandemic flu plan with their local PCT.

The Department has produced guidance for PCTs stating the duty on national health service organisations to consult local overview and scrutiny committees if they are considering substantial variations in local health services. However, it is for individual local authorities to present such plans to relevant overview and scrutiny committees.

The Department has also produced comprehensive guidance for social care commissioners and providers and these also emphasise the importance of joint working. Copies of the guidance, which consists of nine modules (eight of which have been published) have been placed in the Library.

### Intensive Care

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely effects of an influenza pandemic on demand for intensive care beds; and whether he has made an estimate of the number of such beds likely to be required for the purposes of treating influenza patients during such a pandemic. [278490]

**Gillian Merron:** The number of critical care beds required in a flu pandemic will depend upon a range of factors such as the clinical attack rate, the most 'at risk' population and the number of flu victims requiring intensive care. An estimate has, therefore, not been made.

In the "Managing Demand and Capacity in Health Care Organisations (Surge)" guidance, we have advised that, within their local flu contingency plans, acute hospitals will aim to double the number of critical care beds available (i.e. increase them by 100 per cent.), but that this will have an impact on the level of care that will be provided. Meeting the immediate demand could be achieved by reallocating staff from non-emergency areas of care in order to support the delivery of critical care to meet this increased demand, should it become necessary.

A copy of the current "Managing Demand and Capacity (Surge)" guidance has been placed in the Library.

### Knee Replacements

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for knee replacement operations was in *(a)* Halton, Cheshire and *(b)* England in each year since 2001. [279535]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Median time waited (days) for knee replacement operations[1] for Halton and St. Helens Primary Care Trust (PCT) of residence (2006-07, 2007-08), Halton PCT (2001-02 to 2005-06) and England are shown in the following table.

[1] The main procedure is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode.

| | | *Median time waited (days)* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Primary Care Trust of residence* | *Regional* | *National (England)* |
| 2007-08 | Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust | 96 | 114 |
| 2006-07 | Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust | 148 | 156 |
| 2005-06 | Halton Primary Care Trust | 193 | 169 |
| 2004-05 | Halton Primary Care Trust | 252 | 203 |
| 2003-04 | Halton Primary Care Trust | 262 | 253 |
| 2002-03 | Halton Primary Care Trust | 309 | 281 |
| 2001-02 | Halton Primary Care Trust | 380 | 277 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

### Learning Disability: Employment Services

**Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department provides support to organisations which offer assistance to individuals with learning difficulties in securing jobs. [280415]

**Phil Hope:** "Valuing Employment Now—Real Jobs for People with Learning Disabilities"—a new cross-government strategy to radically improve employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities in England, will be published very shortly.

## Mental Health Services

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to assess the adequacy of provision of mental health services for people of each *(a)* age group, *(b)* sex and *(c)* race. [280902]

**Phil Hope:** The responsibility for service provision by the national health service, including mental health care, and for ensuring that this meets the healthcare needs of local communities rests with each primary care trust. To support them in this, we are running through the national mental health development units programmes of work promoting race equality, age equality and gender equality.

The National Service Framework for mental health (NSF) draws to an end in 2009. The Government and key stakeholders are seeking a new, equally powerful approach to help strategic health authorities deliver their regional visions and to build on the achievements of the NSF through the New Horizons programme.

We will publish an equalities impact assessment of the New Horizons consultation document when this is published later this summer. The equality impact assessment is intended to ensure that New Horizons address the inequalities that different groups in society experience, both in accessing services and in levels of mental health, and will inform the national direction of travel from 2010.

## NHS

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations he has visited in the last three months. [278494]

**Phil Hope:** Visits to national health service organisations by the Secretary of State for Health between 1 March 2009 to 31 May 2009 are shown in the following table.

| *NHS organisation* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| *March* | |
| Queen Victoria Hospital, London | 3 March 2009 |
| Kings College Hospital, London | 10 March 2009 |
| Merlyn Vaz Health and Social Care Centre, Leicester | 13 March 2009 |
| Hugglescote Surgery, Leicestershire | 13 March 2009 |
| Stafford Hospital, Stafford | 26 March 2009 |
| *April* | |
| Charing Cross Hospital, London | 1 April 2009 |
| Ashton Primary Care Centre, Ashton under Lyne | 8 April 2009 |
| Chorley and Ribble Hospital, Chorley | 8 April 2009 |
| Hillingdon Hospital, London | 13 April 2009 |
| Washington Primary Care Centre, Sunderland | 23 April 2009 |
| *May* | |
| Royal Brompton Hospital, London | 6 May 2009 |
| Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London | 28 May 2009 |
| Scarborough Hospital, Scarborough | 29 May 2009 |

## Palliative Care

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to implement the National service framework for long-term conditions; and what assessment he has made of his Department's effectiveness in doing so. [280274]

**Ann Keen:** Responsibility for implementing the national service framework (NSF) for long-term conditions rests with local health and social care organisations. The NSF has a 10-year implementation phase, with the expectation that health and social care organisations plan and deliver service improvements in line with local priorities and needs over the period of implementation.

"The National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions: National Support for Local Implementation", published in May 2008, provides an overview of the resources, tools and guidance provided by the Department and others to support local implementation of the NSF. A copy has been placed in the Library.

We have not assessed the Department's effectiveness in supporting local organisations to implement the NSF.

## Strokes: Rural Areas

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department plans to implement the national stroke strategy in rural areas; and how much funding has been provided to that end in 2009-10. [280160]

**Ann Keen:** Primary care trusts receive funding to commission services according to local needs and priorities. Extra funding has gone to national health service primary care trusts to implement, among other things, the stroke strategy and additional central funding over three years is available to help accelerate improvements in services, including those in rural areas. There are 28 stroke networks in England within the Stroke Improvement Programme, which are helping to develop innovative solutions to local problems, including issues of rurality.

Commissioners and service providers locally will need to ensure they take into account the challenges posed by rural locations—for example in ensuring that patients have access to time-critical services such as thrombolysis.

## Swine Flu

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the time taken to make available the national pandemic influenza service; on what date he expects the service to be available; and what contingency arrangements have been made for circumstances in which swine influenza spreads at a rate more rapid than that assumed for the purposes of his Department's existing arrangements for the distribution of antiviral treatments. [281136]

**Gillian Merron:** With an innovative system such as the full national pandemic flu service it was essential that there was rigorous scrutiny to ensure that the system would both work and offer value for money to the United Kingdom taxpayer. This inevitably led to some delays in signing the contract with British Telecom. The contract for the development of the system was signed with BT in December 2008.

The contingency arrangements, should the current outbreak spread at a more rapid rate, are that an interim national pandemic flu service has been put in place to supplement the assessment and authorisation processes. The interim service has been tested and consists of a phone service that the public can access through a single 0800 number, and a supporting website application. That will mean that people can have their symptoms assessed either over the phone or online. If it is established that they have developed swine flu, they will be issued with an authorisation number that they will then be able to use to access antivirals in a timely and appropriate way.

The full national pandemic flu service will be ready in the autumn, having been fully tested.

### Tuberculosis: Vaccination

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of immunisation against tuberculosis in England. [279974]

**Gillian Merron:** Immunisation against tuberculosis (TB) is provided by the Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination. The BCG vaccine has been shown to be 70 to 80 per cent. effective against the most severe forms of the disease, such as TB meningitis in children. It is less effective in preventing respiratory disease, which is the more common form in adults. There are few data on the effectiveness of BCG vaccination when it is given to persons aged 16 or over.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation reviewed BCG vaccination policy in 2007 and advised that its advice for a targeted at-risk vaccination programme remained appropriate.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Elderly and Vulnerable Witnesses

15. **John Robertson:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Crown Prosecution Service takes to assist elderly and vulnerable people to give evidence as witnesses for the prosecution. [280586]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service works closely with other criminal justice partners to provide individually tailored support for all witnesses. The Crown Prosecution Service published its policy on Prosecuting Crimes Against Older People in July 2008. Support for elderly and vulnerable witnesses can include specialist advocacy services and a range of special measures; for example the appointment of intermediaries, or the giving of evidence by live-link from the witness' own home.

### Discontinued Prosecutions

16. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions have been discontinued on the advice of the Crown Prosecution Service on the first day set down for the trial in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [280587]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service maintains records of attrition at various points in the criminal process in both the magistrates court and the Crown court. These records do not include a discrete count of the number of cases discontinued on the first day set down for trial. It is therefore not possible to accurately answer the hon. Member's question. However, it is clear that there have been significant improvements in the level of attrition over the period in question.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what consultations have been carried out by the Cabinet Office since July 2007; and at what cost. [279341]

**Angela E. Smith:** Details of consultations carried out by Cabinet Office during the 2007-08 financial year are available in the Cabinet Office's Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 which is available in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members.

Details of consultations carried out during 2008-09 will be published in the forthcoming Annual Report and Accounts for 2008-09 which it is planned will be published prior to the summer recess 2009.

Costs of the consultations would be available only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the Answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 170W, on departmental recruitment, what progress has been made on consideration of whether a revised version of the European Fast Stream should be reintroduced for 2010. [280327]

**Angela E. Smith:** Discussions are continuing between interested Government Departments as to whether a revised version of the European Fast Stream should be reintroduced for 2010 and what form it would take.

### Malnutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people died of each malnutrition condition, identified by its ICD-10 code, in each strategic health authority area in each year since 1997. [279247]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died of each malnutrition condition, identified by its ICD-10 code, in each strategic health authority area in each year since 1997-98. (279247)

The attached tables provide the numbers of deaths where (a) malnutrition was the underlying cause of death (Table 1), (b) malnutrition was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate (Table 2), and (c) effects of hunger was mentioned anywhere on

the death certificate (Table 3), for persons resident in each strategic health authority in England, for the years 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available).

'Effects of hunger', as the effects of malnutrition may be reported on a death certificate, is never recorded as the underlying cause of death, because it is defined by the International Classification of Diseases as a secondary cause only.

Figures in Table 2 include those reported in Table 1. Tables 2 and 3 include deaths where malnutrition and effects of hunger respectively were a complication of a different underlying cause (for example cancer of the stomach).

*Table 1: Deaths where malnutrition was the underlying cause of death[1], strategic health authorities in England[2], 1997 to 2008[3,4]*

| Strategic health authority | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | Deaths (persons) | |
| North East | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| North West | 5 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 10 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 5 |
| East Midlands | 6 | 14 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| West Midlands | 11 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| East of England | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 10 |
| London | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 11 |
| South East Coast | 2 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| South Central | 5 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| Southwest | 10 | 18 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 4 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 for 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

*Table 2: Deaths where malnutrition was mentioned on the death certificate[1], strategic health authorities in England[2], 1997 to 2008[3,4]*

| Strategic health authority | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | Deaths (persons) | |
| North East | 23 | 17 | 20 | 23 | 22 | 25 | 24 | 14 | 19 | 28 | 19 | 20 |
| North West | 35 | 37 | 31 | 30 | 28 | 33 | 33 | 38 | 39 | 32 | 43 | 43 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 33 | 26 | 31 | 26 | 21 | 22 | 31 | 19 | 15 | 25 | 29 | 34 |
| East Midlands | 16 | 31 | 29 | 33 | 16 | 21 | 23 | 22 | 28 | 30 | 28 | 18 |
| West Midlands | 62 | 40 | 55 | 46 | 35 | 50 | 40 | 44 | 24 | 37 | 45 | 47 |
| East of England | 25 | 28 | 38 | 25 | 30 | 33 | 19 | 23 | 36 | 30 | 30 | 41 |
| London | 36 | 38 | 42 | 31 | 23 | 22 | 27 | 16 | 16 | 25 | 29 | 36 |
| South East Coast | 18 | 18 | 22 | 25 | 17 | 18 | 15 | 21 | 15 | 22 | 23 | 23 |
| South Central | 21 | 16 | 20 | 16 | 8 | 21 | 17 | 19 | 26 | 36 | 25 | 25 |
| Southwest | 51 | 54 | 36 | 46 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 36 | 31 | 36 | 29 | 36 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where any of these codes were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

*Table 3: Deaths where effects of hunger was mentioned on the death certificate[1], strategic health authorities in England[2], 1997 to 2008[3,4]*

| Strategic health authority | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | Deaths (persons) | |
| North East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northwest | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| East Midlands | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| West Midlands | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| East of England | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| London | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| South East Coast | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Central | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| South West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code E904.1 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T73.0 for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where these codes were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

### Suicide: Easington

**John Cummings:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many suicides there were in Easington constituency in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [279853]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many suicides took place in Easington constituency in (a) 2005, (b) 2006, (c) 2007 and (d) 2008. (279853)

The table attached provides the number of deaths in Easington parliamentary constituency where suicide was the underlying cause of death, for the years 2005 to 2008.

*Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, Easington parliamentary constituency, 2005-08*[1,2,3,4,5]

| | Deaths |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 6 |
| 2006 | 4 |
| 2007 | 10 |
| 2008 | 8 |

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the coroner's verdict was pending).
[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[5] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

## JUSTICE

### 30 Year Rule Review

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his response is to the recommendation of the Review of the Thirty Year Rule that reducing the period should be phased through the release of two years' worth of material each year. [279877]

**Mr. Straw:** The Prime Minister announced to the House on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 797, that the Government will reduce the 30 year rule to 20 years.

The Ministry of Justice will respond to the detailed recommendations of the Dacre Review by the summer.

### Administration of Justice: ICT

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to introduce an integrated IT system to link-up the probation, police, courts and prisons services. [280186]

**Claire Ward:** We have already put in place a technology infrastructure for these core criminal justice agencies and established a technology capability to help integrate the flow of information between these agencies through a secure, central exchange.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to improve internal communications systems within the criminal justice system. [280187]

**Claire Ward:** We have done much to improve communications within the criminal justice system. Each of the core criminal justice agencies now has a technology infrastructure and we have the put in place the capability for agencies to exchange information securely between each other and with those outside the system.

Of course, we need to continue to improve information sharing, and we are, for example, this year putting in place the ability for the police to gain access to the outcome of court hearings automatically.

### Bail: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of offenders released on bail in 2007 were *(a)* originally charged with and *(b)* subsequently sentenced for (i) offences of violence against the person and (ii) sexual offences; [279226]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* defendants released on bail and *(b)* defendants charged with violence against the person or sexual offences and then released on bail (i) failed to attend sentencing hearings and (ii) broke their bail conditions in other ways in 2007. [279229]

**Mr. Straw:** The annual publication 'Criminal Statistics' contains estimates of the number of defendants in certain offence groups who were bailed by the courts. The estimated number of defendants who were granted bail at magistrates courts in England and Wales during 2007 in connection with 'Violence against the Person' and 'Sexual offences' was 43,200 and 4,800 respectively, corresponding to 9 and 1 per cent. of the total number of persons who were bailed at magistrates courts for all offences (Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, table 4.10). These figures include those also held in custody for some but not the whole period of the proceedings. The number of offenders subsequently sentenced for these offence types are not available.

The estimated number of defendants who were granted bail at all magistrates courts and who subsequently failed to appear as directed to any hearing, not just a sentencing hearing, in England and Wales during 2007 was 3,400 for 'Violence against the person' (8 per cent. of the number of persons bailed for this offence type). For 'Sexual offences' the figure was 300 (6 per cent. of the number of persons bailed for this offence type). For all offences, the figure was 51,500 (11 per cent. of persons bailed) (Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, table 4.10). These figures include those also held in custody for some but not the whole period of the proceedings. These remands data are not comparable with other court proceedings data.

The Ministry of Justice holds no data on how many defendants breached their bail conditions. Breach of bail conditions is not an offence and therefore carries no penalty. Any person who breaches a bail condition is liable to immediate arrest and it is the responsibility of the court to re-consider bail as a whole and decide whether to grant bail again on the same or different conditions or to remand into custody.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many defendants were charged with offences of violence against the person or sexual offences in 2007;

how many and what proportion of those so charged were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused bail; and what condition of schedule 1 of the Bail Act 1976 was cited as the reason not to grant bail in each case; [279230]

(2) how many offenders were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of (i) offences of violence against the person and (ii) sexual offences in 2007. [279231]

**Mr. Straw:** The number of defendants who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for 'violence against the person' and 'sexual offences', England and Wales, for the year 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice, so proceeded against data have been provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The annual publication "Criminal Statistics" contains estimates of the number of defendants in certain offence groups who were bailed by the courts. The estimated number of defendants who were granted bail at all magistrates courts in England and Wales during 2007 in connection with offences in the "Violence against the person and Sexual offences" groups was 43,200 and 4,800 respectively (Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, table 4.10). These figures include those also held in custody for some but not the whole period of the proceedings. Data for 2008 will be available later this year.

These data are not comparable with the court proceedings data presented elsewhere in this answer, therefore they cannot be used to compute the proportions of defendants granted or refused bail.

The court may withhold bail if it is satisfied that there are substantial grounds for believing that, if released on bail, the defendant would abscond, commit an offence, interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice. In making its decision the court must consider all the circumstances of the case as appear to be relevant. This will include the nature and seriousness of the alleged offence and the weight of the evidence against the defendant, the defendant's character, antecedents, associations, community ties and past record of complying with bail, as well as any other factors which appear relevant to the court. Data on bail collected centrally by my Department do not include information on the reasons given for refusing bail. This information would have to be retrieved by inspecting individual court records which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

*Number of defendants who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for sexual and violence against the person offences In England and Wales, 2007[1, 2, 3]*

| | *Proceeded against* | | *Found guilty* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Sexual offences[4, 5]* | *Violence against the person[6]* | *Sexual offences[4, 5]* | *Violence against the person[6]* |
| 2007 | 8,634 | 61,056 | 5,075 | 41,951 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Sexual and violence against the person offences include 'indictable only' and 'triable-either way offences'. 'Indictable only' are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be dealt with at the Crown Court. Triable-either-way offences may be tried at either the Crown Court or at magistrates courts. The offence groups do not include summary offences.

3 Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

4 The sexual offences category includes offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May 2004. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 represented a major overhaul of the law and so comparisons with old offending regimes can be misleading.

[5] The sexual offences category includes the following offences:
Buggery
Sexual assault on a male
Indecency between males
Rape of a female
Rape of a male
Sexual assault on a female
Sexual activity with child under 13
Sexual activity with child under 16
Familial sexual offences (incest)
Exploitation of prostitution
Abduction
Bigamy
Soliciting of women by men
Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography
Trafficking for sexual exploitation
Abuse of trust—sexual offences
Gross indecency with children
Miscellaneous sexual offences

[6] The Violence against the person category includes the following offence classes:
Murder
Attempted murder
Threat or conspiracy to murder
Manslaughter
Infanticide
Child destruction
Causing death by dangerous driving
Manslaughter due to diminished responsibility
Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs
Causing death of a child or vulnerable person
Wounding or other act endangering life
Endangering railway passenger
Endangering life at sea
Malicious wounding etc.
Cruelty to or neglect of children
Abandoning child aged under two years
Child abduction
Procuring illegal abortion
Concealment of birth
Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking

*Source:*
OCJR—E and A: Office for criminal justice reform—evidence and analysis unit, Ministry of Justice

## Crimes of Violence: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point convicted of serious violent offences and who served sentences of under two years duration re-offended in each of the last five years. [279282]

**Maria Eagle:** The requested information is not available. The data sets compiled by the Ministry of Justice to analyse reoffending by adults and juveniles do not enable reoffending rates to be calculated at this level of detail. Although data have recently been published on reoffending at a local level these data cannot be broken down by sentence length or offence type and so cannot be used to answer this question.

The available data on local reoffending can be found at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/local-adult-reoffending-2008-ii.pdf

## Crimes of Violence: Sentencing

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length was of sentences *(a)* handed down to and *(b)* served by those who were convicted of (i) violence against the person, (ii) sexual offences and (iii) robbery in 2007. [279225]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table shows the average length of a determinate immediate custodial sentence for 2007.

*Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] in months for 2007*

| | Average length |
|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 16.9 |
| Sexual offences | 42.9 |
| Robbery | 31.3 |

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

*Notes:*
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

These figures can all be found in table 2.12 of Sentencing Statistics 2007 available at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

It is not possible to provide data on time served for those prisoners convicted in 2007 because some will still be serving their sentences. If the offence was committed on or after 4 April 2005, release arrangements are covered by the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) 2003, where either a standard determinate sentence, Extended Sentence for Public Protection or Imprisonment for Public Protection would apply. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 amended certain sentences from the CJA 2003. Life sentence prisoners are released under the terms of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997.

Average time served in prison for 2007 could be found in table 9.1 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007 available at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonand probation.htm

These data are based on the principal offence. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence it is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of offenders sentenced for offences of violence against the person or sexual offences received *(a)* a custodial sentence and *(b)* a non-custodial sentence or other disposal in each of the last two years. [279232]

**Mr. Straw:** The requested information is shown as follows:

*Number and percentage of offenders sentenced for violence against the person or sexual offences receiving custodial and non-custodial sentences, 2006-07*

| | Violence against the person | | | | Sexual offences | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
| | Offenders | Percentage of offenders | Offenders | Percentage of offenders | Offenders | Percentage of offenders | Offenders | Percentage of offenders |
| *Custodial sentences* | | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 12,354 | 29.5 | 12,535 | 29.8 | 2,808 | 56.9 | 2,810 | 55.6 |
| Suspended sentence | 5,569 | 13.3 | 7,167 | 17.0 | 296 | 6.0 | 439 | 8.7 |
| Non-custodial sentences | 23,982 | 57.2 | 22,377 | 53.2 | 1,828 | 37.1 | 1,805 | 35.7 |
| Total number sentenced | 41,905 | 100 | 42,079 | 100 | 4,932 | 100 | 5,054 | 100 |

*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system

*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

These figures are also available in the answer I gave the hon. and learned Member on 9 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 792W, and from table 1.2 of Sentencing Statistics 2007 found at the following at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

These data are based on the principal offence. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence it is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for more than offence the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

## Departmental Press

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279416]

**Mr. Straw:** Details of newspapers and periodicals delivered to the private office of each of the Ministers in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in April 2009 (the latest month for which figures are available) are contained in the following table. The total cost for the provision of these publications for April 2009 was £1,642.

In May 2009 MoJ private offices, undertook a review of these costs and have made significant cuts in the number of daily newspapers ordered. It is estimated that this will result in a saving of approximately £500 per month.

*Newspapers and periodicals ordered by MoJ ministerial offices for April 2009*

*Jack Straw's office*

*Newspapers*

*Financial Times*
*Times*
*Telegraph*
*Guardian*
*Independent*
*Daily Express*
*Daily Mail*
*Daily Mirror*
*The Sun*
*Daily Star*
*Evening Standard*
*Western Mail*
*Record*

*Periodicals*

*Economist*
*New Statesman*
*Spectator*
*Tribune*
*Prospect*
*Private Eye*

*David Hanson's office*

*Newspapers*

*Times*
*Guardian*
*Telegraph*
*Independent*
*Daily Mail*
*Daily Express*
*The Sun*
*Daily Mirror*
*The Morning Star*
*Evening Standard*

*Periodicals*

*Tribune*
*Private Eye*
*Spectator*

*Bridget Prentice's office*

*Newspapers*

*Times*
*Financial Times*
*Guardian*
*Telegraph*
*Independent*
*Daily Mail*
*Daily Express*
*The Sun*
*Daily Mirror*

*Periodicals*

*The Lawyer*
*Private Eye*

*Maria Eagle's office*

*Newspapers*

*Financial Times*
*Times*
*Guardian*
*Independent*
*The Mail*
*The Sun*
*Daily Mirror*
*Evening Standard*

*Periodicals*

*New Statesman*
*The Week*
*The Lawyer*
*The Spectator*

*Lord Bach's office*

*Newspapers*

*Times*
*The Guardian*
*Daily Telegraph*
*Independent*
*Daily Mail*
*The Sun*
*Daily Mirror*
*Evening Standard*

*Periodicals*

*Economist*
*Private Eye*
*Solicitors Journal*

*Shahid Malik's office*

*Newspapers*

*Times*
*Guardian*
*Mail*

*Periodicals*

*New Statesman*
*The Week*
*The Lawyer*
*The Spectator*

*Michael Will's office*

*Newspapers*

*Times*
*Guardian*
*Telegraph*
*Independent*
*Mail*
*Evening Standard*

*Periodicals*

Nil.

Total cost for April 2009: £1,642.

## Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279395]

**Mr. Straw:** None.

## Domestic Violence

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Harborough of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 172-3W, on domestic violence, what the average period of time before offenders convicted of offences of domestic violence or abuse commenced integrated domestic abuse programmes was in each probation area in England and Wales in 2008-09. [279251]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table shows the average number of weeks that elapse from the date of sentence for offences of violence or abuse to the commencement of domestic violence programme requirements in probation areas for 2008-09.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Average number of weeks that elapse from the date of sentence to the commencement of domestic abuse programme requirement in probation areas 2008-09*

| *Probation area* | *Weeks* |
|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 22.9 |
| Bedfordshire | 16.4 |
| Cambridgeshire | 21.5 |
| County Durham | 19.0 |
| Cumbria | 25.0 |
| Derbyshire | 22.0 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 14.7 |
| Dorset | 17.6 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 19.4 |
| Essex | 25.4 |
| Gloucestershire | 14.1 |
| Gwent | 22.3 |
| Hampshire | 15.6 |
| Hertfordshire | 11.6 |
| Humberside | 17.5 |
| Kent | 16.6 |
| Lancashire | 15.7 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 19.8 |
| Lincolnshire | 16.3 |
| London | 8.4 |
| Merseyside | 15.3 |
| Norfolk | 18.0 |
| North Wales | 11.2 |
| Northamptonshire | 20.8 |
| Northumbria | 15.4 |
| North Yorkshire | 6.4 |
| Nottinghamshire | 12.6 |
| South Wales | 2.1 |
| South Yorkshire | 11.3 |
| Staffordshire | 15.6 |
| Suffolk | 13.5 |
| Surrey | 20.6 |
| Sussex | 21.0 |
| Teesside | 28.4 |
| Thames Valley | 2.3 |
| Warwickshire | 1.6 |
| West Mercia | 20.4 |
| West Midlands | 13.4 |
| West Yorkshire | 21.1 |
| Wiltshire | 20.7 |

*Note:*
Data are not available for Cheshire or Greater Manchester probation areas. Figures presented do not account for pre programme work undertaken with Offender Manager.

## Freedom of Information

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to the consultation on extending the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [279879]

**Mr. Straw:** In my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's statement on Constitutional Renewal on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 797-99, he emphasised the Government's plans to look at broadening the application of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Government are considering carefully the responses to the public consultation on extending the Act through a Section 5 order. This could include within the scope of the Act bodies performing functions of a public nature and contractors providing services that are functions of public authorities. The Government will publish their response to the consultation shortly.

## Hillsborough Stadium: Disclosure of Information

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made in identifying files and documents it holds relating to the Hillsborough disaster that can be released. [279537]

**Mr. Wills:** A number of files have been identified containing information relevant to the Hillsborough disaster. A review of the information is under way.

## Intellectual Property: Crime

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for intellectual property crime there were under the (a) Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 and (b) Trademarks Act 1994 in 2007. [279248]

**Mr. Straw:** Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all court for offences under the 1988 Copyright, Designs and Patents Act and the 1994 Trademarks Act, in England and Wales in 2007 is shown in the following table.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the 1988 Copyright, Designs and Patents Act[1] and the 1994 Trademarks Act[2], England and Wales, 2007[3,4]*

| *Act* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
|---|---|---|
| Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 | 514 | 365 |
| Trademarks Act 1994 | 1,071 | 888 |

[1] Includes the following:
(a) Makes, imports or distributes illicit recordings. Makes for sale or hire, imports possesses or distributes articles which infringes copyright. (Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, Sec. 198 1a, b, d.iii. & Sec. 107 1a, b, d.iv and E).
(b) Triable either way offences except sections included in (1)(a).
(c) Person infringes copyright in a work by communicating the work to the public. (Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 S.107 2A and 4A as added by Copyright and Related Rights Regulations Reg 26 (1))
(d) Person who infringes a performer's making available right in the course of business/otherwise (Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 S.198 2A and 5A as added by Copyright and Related Rights Regulations Reg 26 (3))
(e) Summary offences.
[2] Includes the following:
(a) Unauthorised use of Trade Mark etc in relations to goods. Falsification of register etc. (Trade Marks Act, 1994 Sec 92 & 94).
(b) Unauthorised use of royal arms etc. Unregistered persons describing themselves as registered Trade Mark Agents. Contravention of the rules prescribing the conditions for person entitled to be registered Trade Mark Agents. Falsely representing trade mark as registered. (Trade Marks Act, 1994, Sees 84, 85, 95).
[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
Evidence and analysis unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

## Land Registry: Complaints

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints about the way in which a decision relating to land registration had been reached were *(a)* received and *(b)* completed by the Office of the Independent Complaints Reviewer in each of the last three years. [279237]

**Mr. Straw:** The figures are set out in the following table. They show the number of complaints received and not investigated (there are two main reasons why a complaint may not be investigated; if the complaint has not gone through the Land Registry complaints procedure first; or the complaint is not lodged within six months of the final outcome with Land Registry), the number of complaints investigated, and the total number of separate allegations considered within the 'complaints investigated' figure. The 2008-09 report has not been finalised.

| | *Complaints received not investigated* | *Complaints investigated* | *Number of allegations investigated* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | n/a | 16 | 75 |
| 2006-07 | 38 | 24 | 121 |
| 2007-08 | 30 | 22 | 98 |

n/a = Not available.

## Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Courts plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 28 April 2009 on the Probation Service. [281134]

**Maria Eagle:** I replied to the hon. Member on 17 June. I apologise for the delay.

## National Offender Management Service

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget of each director of offender management in England and Wales is for 2009-10. [280181]

**Maria Eagle:** The operating budget for each Director of Offender Management region in England and Wales is:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 312,564,672 |
| East | 263,521,449 |
| London | 317,304,202 |
| North East | 161,503,899 |
| North West | 427,874,764 |
| South East | 453,671,901 |
| South West | 215,477,689 |
| Wales | 101,191,129 |
| West Midlands | 284,794,603 |
| Yorkshire | 287,324,035 |

## Prison Service: Manpower

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of prisoners to prison officers at each category C prison in England and Wales was on 1 April in each of the last 10 years. [272735]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the prisoner to officer ratio at each category C prison since 2000 is contained in the following table. Information is provided only for establishments which were category C in each particular year. Establishments are allocated to a category based on the predominant accommodation. Establishments that also hold young offenders would be expected to have lower prisoner to officer ratios.

| *Prison* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 3.7 |
| Ashwell | 4.2 | 3.5 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 4.9 |
| Blantyre House | 3.2 | 3.2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Blundeston | — | — | — | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Brockhill | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2.2 | 2.2 | — |
| Buckley Hall | — | 3.4 | 1.1 | — | — | — | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| Bullwood Hall | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.8 |

| Prison | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Camp Hill | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.7 |
| Canterbury | — | — | — | — | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.7 |
| Channings Wood | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.9 |
| Coldingley | 3.1 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.7 |
| Dartmoor | — | — | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.7 |
| Downview | 2.7 | 2.7 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Edmunds Hill | — | — | — | — | — | 1.3 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| Erlestoke | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| Everthorpe | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 4.0 |
| Featherstone | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.4 |
| Guys Marsh[1] | — | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| Haslar | — | 2.6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Haverigg | 2.8 | 3.8 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.2 |
| Highpoint | 3.2 | 3.4 | 5.9 | 4.0 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.3 |
| Kennet | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2.3 | 2.4 |
| Kirklevington Grange | 4.7 | 4.6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lancaster | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.8 |
| Lindholme | 3.2 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.6 |
| Littlehey | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| Maidstone | — | — | — | — | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 2.4 |
| Moorland[1] | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Onley[1] | — | — | — | — | — | 2.6 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.1 |
| Ranby | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.9 |
| Risley | 2.6 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| Shepton Mallet | 2.7 | 1.7 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 2.9 |
| Stafford | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 4.0 |
| Stocken | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| The Mount | 4.2 | 4.6 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.4 |
| The Verne | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 5.1 |
| Usk/Prescoed | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 |
| Wayland | 4.0 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 3.5 | 4.0 |
| Wealstun | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| Weare | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.5 | — | — | — | — |
| Wellingborough | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| Whatton | 3.5 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.9 |
| Wolds | — | — | — | — | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 3.3 | 3.9 |
| Wymott | 3.7 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 4.0 |

[1] Establishment also holds, or until recently held, young offenders as well as category C prisoners. Moorland also has an "Open" section.

## Prisoners: Compensation

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Prison Service paid in compensation to prisoners in respect of damaged or lost property in 2008-09. [279224]

**Mr. Straw:** £25,361 was paid out in settlement of prisoner civil litigation claims for damaged or lost property in 2008-09. Figures for settlements of claims resolved through the internal complaints system or through the Prison and Probation Ombudsman are not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Prisoners: Elderly

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners in England and Wales are over (i) 70 and (ii) 75 years old. [279881]

**Mr. Straw:** The number of male and female prisoners aged 70 and up to 74, and over 75 years old at the end of April 2009 is as follows:

| | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| 70 and up to 74 | 331 | [1]— |
| 75 and over | 188 | [1]— |
| Total | 519 | 6 |

[1] Fewer than 5

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Prisons

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 797W, on prisons, how long on average elapsed between prisoners' cells being unlocked in the morning and prisoners being returned to their cells in the evening in each month between January 1997 and March 2007. [279845]

**Mr. Straw:** The figures requested are set out in the following table.

*Monthly average time unlocked (hours per prisoner per day)*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 11.11 | 10.64 | 10.46 | 10.16 | 9.12 | 9.32 | 9.78 | 9.91 | 9.91 | 10.09 | 10.08 |
| February | 11.12 | 10.59 | 10.60 | 10.13 | 9.58 | 9.48 | 9.84 | 9.86 | 9.91 | 10.12 | 10.06 |
| March | 11.15 | 10.93 | 10.46 | 9.82 | 8.95 | 9.32 | 9.90 | 9.89 | 9.97 | 10.04 | 10.11 |
| April | 11.00 | 10.75 | 10.39 | 8.81 | 9.66 | 9.66 | 9.94 | 9.87 | 10.03 | 10.08 | — |
| May | 11.06 | 10.70 | 10.39 | 9.54 | 9.77 | 9.75 | 9.97 | 10.04 | 9.99 | 10.03 | — |
| June | 10.93 | 10.65 | 10.26 | 9.59 | 9.67 | 9.89 | 9.92 | 10.07 | 10.05 | 10.20 | — |
| July | 10.89 | 10.70 | 10.27 | 9.80 | 9.83 | 9.80 | 9.96 | 10.03 | 10.02 | 10.08 | — |
| August | 10.96 | 10.60 | 10.16 | 9.76 | 9.69 | 9.78 | 9.96 | 9.90 | 9.99 | 10.07 | — |
| September | 10.86 | 10.60 | 10.22 | 9.99 | 9.72 | 9.83 | 9.96 | 9.86 | 9.99 | 10.11 | — |
| October | 10.95 | 10.56 | 10.13 | 9.97 | 9.67 | 9.73 | 9.91 | 9.91 | 10.06 | 10.11 | — |
| November | 10.86 | 10.53 | 10.12 | 9.88 | 9.50 | 9.60 | 9.87 | 10.04 | 10.13 | 10.13 | — |
| December | 10.69 | 10.50 | 10.10 | 9.78 | 9.41 | 9.54 | 9.88 | 9.94 | 9.92 | 9.99 | — |

## Probation

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many directors of offender management there have been in each month since their inception of the post. [279891]

**Mr. Straw:** The first six directors of Offender Management took up their posts on 30 March 2009. An interim director also took up post on this date. The remaining three directors of Offender Management took up their posts during April. All 10 directors have been in post since 27 April 2009.

To assist in the design and development of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) agency, Wales and the London region piloted an integrated management structure during the 2008-09 financial year. The two managers who led these pilots were called directors of Offender Management and held these posts from 1 April 2008 to 27 March 2009.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many probation offices there were in each year since 1997; [279892]

(2) how many probation offices are open. [279893]

**Mr. Straw:** Information on the number of probation offices there were in each year since 1997 is not held or recorded centrally. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would require approaching 42 probation trusts and areas across England and Wales.

Current central estates records show there are 1,049 occupied probation properties, of which 95 are Approved Premises.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the caseload was of the Probation Service in *(a)* London and *(b)* England and Wales on the latest date for which information is available. [280183]

**Maria Eagle:** The total case load of offenders supervised by the probation service in London and England and Wales as at 31 December 2008 was as follows:

*All probation service supervision at 31 December 2008*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| London | 43,811 |
| England and Wales | 243,434 |

These figures are provisional and were published on 30 April 2009 in the Ministry of Justice statistics bulletin probation statistics quarterly brief October to December 2008, England and Wales. Copies can be found in the Libraries of the House and may be accessed via the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/probation quarterly.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Probation Service for England and Wales: Finance

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budgetary reductions there will be for the Probation Service in England and Wales in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [280185]

**Maria Eagle:** A budget reduction of £20 million has been applied to the national probation service in 2009-10. No final decisions have been taken regarding the budget allocation for 2010-11.

We have set challenging efficiency targets for probation areas who want to become trusts, but in doing so we have always been clear that the priority is public protection and this will not be compromised.

In 2009-10, probation is required to make savings of £20 million out of a budget of £914 million, which was 2.2 per cent. In 2008-09, provisional figures show that probation areas underspent by £17 million, which demonstrates that the savings are completely realistic.

## Public Opinion: Ministry of Justice

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he made of the level of public confidence in the criminal justice system in 2008. [279249]

**Mr. Straw:** Public confidence in the criminal justice system (CJS) is measured using the British crime survey (BCS). In the year to March 2008 44 per cent. of people were confident that the CJS is effective in bringing

people who commit crimes to justice. This rose from 39 per cent. in 2003, and met the Government's target for the period 2003—2008.

The BCS now includes measures of public confidence in both the fairness and the effectiveness of the CJS as a whole. During the period from October 2007 to March 2008, 56 per cent. of people were confident that the CJS as a whole is fair and 37 per cent. were confident that it is effective. From April to December 2008 the level of confidence in fairness increased to 58 per cent., while confidence in effectiveness has so far remained stable.

### Reoffenders

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serious further offence reviews were carried out in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* London in 2008-09. [280184]

**Maria Eagle:** The figures for serious further offence reviews for 2008-09 will be published in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics on 31 July 2009. As the published statistics do not contain a breakdown by individual probation area, I will provide the hon. Gentleman with the figures for London, once the national figures have been published.

The most recent statistics available show that, between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008, there were 1,252 reviews carried out by probation areas in England and Wales, in cases which were initially notified to the National Offender Management Service. The corresponding figure for London was 165.

### Reparation by Offenders: Clothing

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of offenders used high-visibility clothing whilst undertaking community payback work in the last period for which figures are available. [279895]

**Mr. Straw:** The use of distinctive high visibility clothing by offenders sentenced to Community Payback is monitored centrally by the number of hours worked. The number of offenders using high visibility clothing is not recorded. The last period for which figures are available is March, when 76.25 per cent. of the hours worked by offenders on Community Payback projects potentially in view of the public, were undertaken using distinctive clothing.

Exemptions to the use of distinctive clothing may be granted where convincing evidence is provided on the basis of health and safety concerns, or business risk to the organisation benefiting from the work. Probation areas have successfully engaged with beneficiary organisations to increase the proportion of hours worked using distinctive high visibility clothing. The hours worked using distinctive clothing increased from 210,974 hours in December 2008 to 401,680 in March 2009. Distinctive clothing is not worn on work projects taking place on enclosed premises, such as workshops, where the work done by offenders is not potentially in view of the public.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### GCSE: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point achieved five or more A* to C grades at GCSE in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which information is available. [280447]

**Mr. Coaker:** Consistent information about pupil achievement based on residency is only available for years 2002/03 onwards. The requested information for 2002/03 and 2007/08 is provided in the following table.

*Percentage of pupils[1] resident in Essex local authority and Castle Point constituency achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalents, 2002/03[2] and 2007/08[3]*

| | Percentage | |
|---|---|---|
| | Essex | Castle Point |
| 2002/03 | 56.2 | 55.5 |
| 2007/08 | 64.5 | 61.0 |

[1] Pupils attending maintained schools only.
[2] Based on pupils aged 15 with a valid postcode at the start of the academic year and includes GCSEs and GNVQs.
[3] Based on pupils at the end of key stage 4 with a valid postcode in that academic year and includes GCSEs and equivalents.
*Source:*
National Pupil Database (final data)

### Schools: Crimes of Violence

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent guidance his Department has issued to schools on *(a)* protecting staff from violent behaviour by pupils and *(b)* dealing with such behaviour. [280471]

**Mr. Coaker:** Violence against school staff is completely unacceptable and our guidance on exclusions, revised in September 2008, makes it clear that a pupil can be permanently excluded for violence even when it is a first offence.

In May 2008 we issued revised guidance on the education of children and young people experiencing behavioural, emotional and social difficulties as a special educational need (BESD). We have also commissioned the National Strategies to provide a wide range of support and advisory services, including a continuing professional development scheme, which includes study materials on managing behaviour in schools and addressing BESD.

In addition to guidance, we are implementing a comprehensive national programme to strengthen schools' capacity to manage behaviour. This includes targeted support for schools, high quality training, curriculum materials and consultancy support. We have also strengthened the law to help protect schools from challenges to their authority from pupils or parents, and enable them to foster a safe and orderly learning environment.

We are encouraging schools to develop a whole-school approach to improving social and emotional wellbeing and continuing to reduce behavioural difficulties, by promoting the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme and by publishing guidance on the management of behaviour.

### Social Work Taskforce

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish all of his correspondence with the Social Work Taskforce. [264842]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Social Work Task Force was created in December 2008 to look at front line social work practice and to recommend how, in the light of their conclusions, improvements could be made as part of a long term programme of reform for social work. The Secretaries of State for Health and for Children, Young People and Families, wrote to Moira Gibb, chair of the Social Work Task Force on 5 December 2008 to lay out this remit. This letter was copied to the other members of the task force with their invitations to join, and placed in the House Libraries.

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families wrote to Moira Gibb again, in her position as chair of the Social Work Task Force, regarding Lord Laming's recommendations in his Progress Report on the Protection of Children in England on 12 March 2009. This letter was also placed in the House Libraries.

Moira Gibb wrote to the Secretaries of State for Children, Schools and Families, and for Health on 5 May 2009 with the Social Work Task Force's first report, which outlined its initial findings. The Task Force is expected to submit a further report in July, in advance of their full recommendations in October 2009.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in the Government Equalities Office have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [279520]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Ministers for Women have not attended any private meetings with Demos during the last 12 months are not aware of any public engagements attended at which Demos representatives were present during the same period.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many laptop computers belonging to the Government Equalities Office have been lost or stolen since its creation. [281058]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office (GEO) was established on 12 October 2007. Since then there have been three reported incidents of stolen laptop computers. They have occurred in the following years:

| *Calendar year* | *Number of laptop computers reported as lost or stolen* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 0 |
| 2008 | 2 |
| 2009 | 1 |

GEO laptops are encrypted and can only be used with security keys and passwords.

### Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer to Baroness Warsi of 5 May 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 98WA, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission, what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* salary range is of each of the 83 full-time equivalent posts that are vacant. [279792]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The following table summarises the 83 full-time equivalent vacancies as at 31 March 2009.

| *Directorate* | *Position* | *Vacancies FTE* | *Level* | *Salary range* | *Comments* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wales | Head of Legal | 1 | 5 | [1]£43,680 to £53,093 | — |
| Wales | Head of Research | 1 | 5 | 1— | — |
| Communications | Head of London and South Ops | 1 | 5 | 1— | — |
| Corporate Management | Head of Corporate Change Management | 1 | 5 | 1— | — |
| Corporate Management | Head of Commercial Management | 1 | 5 | 1— | — |
| Strategy | Head of Programme Management | 1 | 5 | 1— | — |
| Strategy | Head of Performance and Stakeholder Engagement | 1 | 5 | 1— | — |
| Strategy | Policy Manager | 7 | 4 | [2]£34,224.75 to £41,600 | — |
| Wales | Policy Manager | 2 | 4 | 2— | — |
| Strategy | Executive Assistant | 1 | 4 | 2— | — |
| Communications | Business Manager | 1 | 4 | 2— | — |
| Strategy | Programme Manager | 5 | 4 | 2— | — |
| Wales | Policy Manager | 1 | 4 | 2— | — |
| Legal | Legal Policy Team Leader | 1 | 3 | [3]£26,815.80 to £32,595 | — |
| Scotland | Lawyer | 1 | 3 | 3— | — |
| Scotland | Policy Officer | 1 | 3 | 3— | — |
| Strategy | Research Officer | 3 | 3 | 3— | — |

| Directorate | Position | Vacancies FTE | Level | Salary range | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporate Management | Grants Officers | 2 | 3 | [1]— | — |
| Corporate Management | Admin Support | 1 | 3 | [1]— | — |
| Corporate Management | Contract Managers | 1 | 3 | [1]— | — |
| Corporate Management | Contract Managers | 1 | 3 | [1]— | — |
| Communications | Executive Assistant | 1 | 3 | [1]— | — |
| Communications | Regional Programme Adviser | 7 | 3 | [1]— | — |
| Corporate Management | Para-Legal | 1 | 3 | [1]— | — |
| Corporate Management | Executive Assistant | 1 | 3 | [1]— | — |
| Strategy | Programme Officer | 3 | 3 | [1]— | — |
| Wales | Policy Officer | 1 | 3 | [1]— | — |
| Communications | Helpline Managers | 3 | 3 | [1]— | These roles where in anticipation of the TUPE Sitel transfer which was completed 1 April 2009 |
| Corporate Management | Grants Officers | 1 | 2 | [4]£20,056.30 to £24,378 | — |
| Corporate Management | Receptionist | 1 | 2 | [4]— | — |
| Strategy | Admin Co-ordinator | 1 | 2 | [4]— | — |
| Strategy | Services Support Co-ordinator | 2 | 2 | [4]— | — |
| Communications | Helpline Co-ordinators | 23 | 2 | [4]— | These roles where in anticipation of the TUPE Sitel transfer which was completed 1 April 2009 |
| Commissioners | Secretary to Chair and CEO Private Office Team | 1 | 1 | [5]£15,000 to £18,233 | — |
| Communications | Helpline Administrator | 1 | 1 | [5]— | — |
| Strategy | Admin Support | 1 | 1 | [5]— | — |
| Total | | 83 | | | |

[1] Salary applies to all level 5
[2] Salary applies to all level 4
[3] Salary applies to all level 3
[4] Salary applies to all level 2
[5] Salary applies to all level 1

### Government Equalities Office: Drinking Water

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on bottled water in each of the last two years. [279368]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Since its creation on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on bottled water in the conduct of its day-to-day business at its headquarters in Eland House, London. Bottled water has been provided at GEO-hosted conferences and seminars but the costs of this are not separately identified by the event suppliers.

### Government Equalities Office: Homophobia

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps the Government Equalities Office has taken to combat homophobia in the work place. [279365]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government are committed to combating workplace homophobia. The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 made discrimination and harassment because of sexual orientation unlawful in employment and vocational training. The Government Equalities Office has made a commitment in its business plan for 2009-10 to work in partnership across Government to reduce homophobia in the workplace and to support employers to develop lesbian, gay and bisexual-friendly workplaces.

The Equality Bill, currently before Parliament, will introduces a public sector equality duty, which will require public bodies to consider lesbian, gay and bisexual employees' needs when carrying out their functions.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Friday 19 June 2009*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Charities: Animal Welfare

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment she has made of the effects of the recession on animal welfare charities. [278124]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

The Charity Commission recently published its second economic survey of charities, which showed that just over half of the charities surveyed are feeling the impact of the recession. 58 per cent. of those surveyed have seen their incomes decrease, while 20 per cent. reported an increasing demand for the services that they offer.

DEFRA has not carried out a specific assessment of the effects on animal welfare charities. However, the Government have pledged £42.5 million to help volunteers, charities and social enterprises in the difficult economic climate.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Departmental Correspondence

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of letters to his Department from hon. Members' parliamentary offices were answered within 30 days of the date of receipt in each quarter from January 2008 to March 2009. [280468]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department's correspondence target is to answer correspondence from hon. Members within 15 working days of receipt. The following figures reflect the Department's achievement against this target.

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| January to March | 88 |
| April to June | 89 |
| July to September | 77 |
| October to December | 87 |
| *2009* | |
| January to March | 83 |

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used on his Department's and its predecessor's estate in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280518]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department for Children Schools and Families and its predecessor consumed the following electricity and gas from the period 2004-05 to 2008-09.

| | *Electricity* | *kWh Gas* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 19,442,456 | 10,041,361 |
| 2005-06 | 19,473,174 | 10,990,973 |
| 2006-07 | 19,891,015 | 9,568,107 |
| 2007-08 | 15,621,504 | 8,142,413 |
| 2008-09 | 14,054,053 | 7,232,697 |

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on eligibility criteria for the education maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement. [281222]

**Mr. Coaker:** The current eligibility criteria for education maintenance allowance (EMA) are designed to encourage learners from lower income households to participate in post compulsory learning. Evaluation of the EMA pilots has shown that EMA has led to increases in both participation and attainment. I have not had any discussions with ministerial colleagues about eligibility criteria for EMA.

### Schools

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools he visited on official business in the last 12 months. [272863]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families visited approximately 92 schools over the period since May 2008 on official business.

### Schools: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding he has budgeted for the rebuilding of school buildings in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the next five years; [280450]

(2) how much funding his Department and its predecessor allocated for the rebuilding of school buildings in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [280451]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department maintains records on a local authority rather than on a constituency basis. The following table sets out actual and planned allocations to Essex council for the period 2004-05 to 2010-11. No decision has as yet been taken regarding allocations beyond 2010-11.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 63.2 |
| 2005-06 | 55.6 |
| 2006-07 | 51.2 |
| 2007-08 | 52.6 |

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 78.4 |
| 2009-10 | 82.3 |
| 2010-11 | 83.5 |

In addition, Essex has a Building Schools for the Future wave 4 project with indicative funding of £31 million grant and £169 million of PFI credits. Essex also has a planned BSF wave 6 project in the pipeline.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Fire Services: Finance

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* operating costs of the FiReControl centre in (i) Durham, (ii) Warrington, (iii) Wakefield, (iv) Castle Donnington, (v) Wolverhampton, (vi) Cambridge, (vii) Taunton, (viii) Fareham and (ix) Morden in each of the next five years. [281216]

**Mr. Malik:** Under current planning assumptions, Fire and Rescue Services will begin using the regional control centres from next year in phases until every FRS in England is using the system. The forecast operating costs for the regional control centres prior to FRS 'cutting over' are set out in the following table:

| *Regional control centre* | *£ per year*[1] |
|---|---|
| Warrington | 2,445,864 |
| Durham | 2,332,711 |
| Wolverhampton | 2,572,971 |
| Wakefield | 2,404,185 |
| Castle Donnington | 2,414,024 |
| Cambridge | 2,608,184 |
| Taunton | 2,431,809 |
| Fareham | 2,608,963 |
| Morden | [2]1,607,482 |

[1] The costs in the table provide an indicative full year forecast operating costs for a financial year in advance of 'cut over' occurring. 2 Note, the Morden building is on track to achieve Practical Completion in February 2010 and this figure includes a substantial rent free period. Comparative costs, including full rent would be £3,371,972.

These figures include all accommodation costs, senior management team and other local authority company costs.

### Homes and Communities Agency: Manpower

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are employed by the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority. [280305]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 720W.

In addition to the 789 FTE staff, the Homes and Communities Agency employ 115 staff on full-time contracts.

### Homes and Communities Agency: Offices

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many offices are operated by the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority; and where each office is located. [280294]

**John Healey:** For details of the HCA's regional offices I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 742-44W. In addition to these offices the HCA has two corporate offices in London (Buckingham Palace road, and Maple House, Tottenham Court road).

For details of the TSA offices I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him my by right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 912W.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been purchased under *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First-Time Buyers Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy in each of the last three months. [281457]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1538-40W, 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 133W, and the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills) on 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1440W, respectively.

The following table shows the information for the months of February, March and April which are not covered by the previous answers.

| | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *February* | *March* | *April* |
| HomeBuy Direct | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Open Market HomeBuy of which: | 605 | 727 | 172 |
| Ownhome | 79 | 112 | 20 |
| MyChoice HomeBuy | 414 | 520 | 141 |
| New Build HomeBuy | 677 | 3,112 | 128 |
| Social HomeBuy | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Rent to HomeBuy | 27 | 972 | 63 |
| First Time Buyers Initiative | 51 | 72 | 60 |

[1] Less than 5.
*Source:* Homes and Communities Agency

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 996W, on housing: low incomes, what the average price of a property purchased under the *(a)* Social HomeBuy, *(b)* Right to Acquire and *(c)* Right to Buy scheme was in each region in each year since 1997. [281458]

**John Healey:** I have placed a table in the House Library showing the average property prices of properties sold through Social Homebuy, Right to Acquire and Right to Buy, by year and region.

These property price figures are based on the total property price, not the amount paid by the purchaser, who is entitled to a discount on the market value and may be purchasing only a share of the equity in the property.

The average property price is not shown for the Right to Acquire sales prior to 2001-02, due to a low number of sales in each year.

### Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which projects received funding from each regional Government office through the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [278691]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my right hon. Friend the Member for Salford (Hazel Blears) to the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 24 January 2008 which provided details of the pathfinder projects in 2007-08—the first year that Communities and Local Government funded local authorities for this work. A copy of the letter is in the Library of the House.

In 2008-09, the mechanism by which the Department paid funds to local authorities for work to prevent violent extremism changed, moving from a 'pathfinder' approach to mainstreaming the funding through the Area Based Grant. My right hon. Friend the Member for Salford wrote to the hon. Member for Wycombe on 2 April 2009 explaining that funding for preventing violent extremism was paid to local authorities through the non ring-fenced Area Based Grant in 2008-09. As with other funding streams provided through the Area Based Grant, authorities are not required to provide any additional information other than that provided in their statutory accounts, statistical returns and Whole of Government Accounts returns. However, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) wrote to all authorities on 12 February to make clear that despite the non ring-fenced nature of the funding continued close working between localities and central Government was critical in developing understanding of the impact of this new policy area.

Following a request from the hon. Member for Wycombe, my right hon. Friend the Member for Salford undertook to provide information about groups in receipt of funding from local authorities in 2008-09 and subsequently wrote to him on 1 May 2009. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Regional Planning and Development: South West

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West; and what the reason is for the time taken to publish the strategy. [281219]

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to respond to the consultation on the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. [281220]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Members to the answer given on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 208W, to the hon. Member for Christchurch (Mr. Chope).

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Libraries

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish his Department's strategy for library services; and if he will make a statement. [280898]

**Barbara Follett:** The Library Service Modernisation Review will be published in the autumn. Although this is later than previously announced the delay is to enable the review to take into consideration the outcome of the local inquiry into the provision of library services by Wirral metropolitan borough council, which is expected to report in late July.

### Theatre: Tickets

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate his Department made of the take-up rate of tickets under the free theatre initiative. [279448]

**Barbara Follett:** Data for the first quarter of A Night Less Ordinary, the scheme which offers free theatre tickets to young people under 26, are being collated and will be published by mid July 2009. Early feedback from participating venues and young theatre goers suggests the scheme is proving to be very popular.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many improvised explosive device attacks there have been on British forces in Afghanistan in each month since January 2008. [279951]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Records of incidents for the whole of Afghanistan are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Data are more readily available for attacks within Regional Command (South), which includes the majority of UK forces deployed to Afghanistan. However, it is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, to identify attacks directed only at British forces given the multinational nature of forces operating in Regional Command (South).

Between 1 January 2008 and 31 May 2009 there were a total of 1,261 improvised explosive device attacks in Regional Command (South).

| | *Improvised explosive device attacks* |
|---|---|
| January 2008 | 54 |
| February 2008 | 27 |
| March 2008 | 51 |
| April 2008 | 32 |
| May 2008 | 31 |
| June 2008 | 14 |
| July 2008 | 115 |
| August 2008 | 120 |
| September 2008 | 106 |
| October 2008 | 90 |
| November 2008 | 99 |
| December 2008 | 104 |
| January 2009 | 83 |
| February 2009 | 78 |
| March 2009 | 85 |
| April 2009 | 74 |
| May 2009 | 98 |

These figures do not include improvised explosive device finds with no detonation or improvised explosive device false alarms. These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis of collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

### Armed Forces: Pensions

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who was responsible for processing the pension payments to service personnel from the Royal Irish Regiment who received overpayment through the Special Capital Payment Scheme. [280642]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This was the responsibility of the former Armed Forces Personnel and Administration Agency. In April 2007, the Armed Forces Personnel and Administration Agency merged with the Veterans Agency to form the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280541]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Use of energy efficiency measures, such as insulation, double glazing and cladding, form an integral element of the routine maintenance and management of the estate. A breakdown of the specific investment since 2004 to date is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, in addition to such routine investment, over the last two years this Department has invested some £8.9 million in 51 projects. It is estimated that these projects will result in financial savings of £2.8 million and emission reductions of 21,600 tonnes of $CO_2$. The projects include Combined Heat and Power, biomass boilers, ground source heat pumps, building management systems and lighting projects.

In order to meet the targets placed on all Government Departments, MOD continues to identify opportunities to make further energy savings on its estate. Work includes undertaking energy audits on site, installing SMART meters and wherever possible achieving excellent rating in the Defence Related Environmental Assessment Methodology or the British Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology for new builds and major refurbishments.

### Gurkhas: Pensions

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received on the provisions made for the Gurkha Pension Scheme in the Sixth Indian Pay Code; and if he will make a statement. [280986]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** A report was produced on the impact of the Indian Sixth Central Pay Commission on the Gurkha Pension Scheme on 2 March this year. The majority of rates of pensions in the Gurkha Pension Scheme still compare favourably with the changed rates in the Indian scheme and no action is needed. A few minor changes are being implemented, but the main area for change affects those pensioners aged 80 or over, the most vulnerable group, who are to receive an increase of at least 20 per cent.

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of up-rating the future pensions of Gurkha ex-servicemen who retired prior to 1 July 1997 to the amount received by their UK equivalents. [280987]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Government policy is not to implement improvements to pensions and similar benefits retrospectively, a policy that is applied across the public sector in the United Kingdom. However, it has been estimated that to pay retrospective pensions to Gurkhas would cost MOD £1.5 billion over 20 years.

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department has on the number of Gurkhas who left the Brigade prior to 1997 and who *(a)* live in poverty in Nepal and *(b)* receive charitable assistance to meet their basic needs; and if he will make a statement. [280988]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** There are around 36,000 retired Brigade of Gurkha veterans/veterans' widows, most of whom live in Nepal.

Of these, some 24,000 are in receipt of Service pensions under the terms of the Gurkha Pension Scheme or the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. These provide a very good standard of living in Nepal. The rate of pension under the Gurkha Pension Scheme is kept under regular review and uplifted annually for inflation in Nepal, which ensures that the pension maintains its value in Nepal over the years. (The annual value of Gurkha Pension Scheme pensions that will be paid by the MOD in Nepal in 2009-10 is £54 million.)

There are around 5,000 veterans/veterans' widows who do not qualify for a Service Pension but who receive a Welfare Pension from the Gurkha Welfare Scheme, which is the field arm of the independent charity, the Gurkha Welfare Trust. The Welfare Pension

is paid from donations made to the Gurkha Welfare Trust which allows them a sustainable lifestyle. The Ministry of Defence grants the Gurkha Welfare Trust more than £1 million per year, which covers most of its administrative costs in Nepal.

The remaining 7,000 personnel are veterans who did not serve for long enough to qualify for a Service Pension and who are not yet old enough or needy enough to qualify for a Welfare Pension. On leaving the Brigade of Gurkhas, they would have received a gratuity but no pension. If these veterans fall on hard times they too become eligible for a Welfare Pension.

All veterans receive free primary health care and those without Gurkha Pension Scheme or AFPS payments receive free secondary health care, all through the Gurkha Welfare Scheme.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Elections: Local Government

**Bob Spink:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 477W, on elections: local government, what steps the Electoral Commission takes to ensure that *(a)* their guidance is complied with and *(b)* their published performance standards are met by returning officers. [280674]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that following publication in October 2009 of its first annual assessment of returning officers' performance against its published performance standards, the Commission intends to meet returning officers who have not met its standards to agree with them action plans aimed at ensuring they will meet the standards in 2010.

The Commission does not currently have the power to compel returning officers to comply with its guidance.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Cabinet: Glasgow

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009; [273929]

(2) what car journeys he took in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273930]

(3) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273931]

(4) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273932]

**Joan Ruddock:** For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279509]

**Joan Ruddock:** DECC has not entered into any contracts with the think-tank Demos.

### Energy: Conservation

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of progress on meeting the commitments under the Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects. [280359]

**Joan Ruddock:** Progress on meeting the commitments under the Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects is overseen by a working group of all members of the Energy Charter, including the UK, supported by the Energy Charter Secretariat. The main mechanism for assessing progress is through regular in-depth reviews of individual member states' policy frameworks for energy efficiency together with horizontal reviews across all the member states focused on specific policy issues.

Copies of the reviews can be found at www.encharter.org/index.php?id=20

### Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of progress in eradicating fuel poverty in vulnerable households by 2010. [279106]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The aim of the UK Government and the devolved Administrations, remains the eradication of fuel poverty in vulnerable households, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, as far as reasonably practicable by 2010, with the overall aim that as far as reasonably practicable no household in the UK should live in fuel poverty by 2016 (2018 in Wales).

There is a wide range of policies and programmes in place which contribute to tackling fuel poverty. This includes Warm Front, CERT and the Decent Homes programme primarily addressing the energy efficiency of households, Winter fuel and cold weather payments to increase household incomes. However, rising energy prices have made achieving our fuel poverty targets more difficult and the current mix of fuel poverty measures is unlikely to eradicate fuel poverty among the vulnerable by 2010.

Against this background, a review of our fuel poverty policies is under way which will be examining whether existing measures to tackle fuel poverty could be made more effective. It will also consider whether new policies should be introduced to help us make further progress towards our goals. The review is looking across all three drivers of fuel poverty, and particularly the key issue of how we can more effectively identify and target assistance at vulnerable households.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance is being provided by his Department for people who, due to age or illness, require fuel assistance for heating other than during winter months. [279107]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The Government have a wide range of policies and programmes in place which can help households to reduce their energy bills throughout the year. These include Warm Front, CERT and the Decent Homes programme primarily addressing the energy efficiency of households through provision of a range of insulation and heating measures.

The Government are also working with Ofgem and the energy suppliers to help the most vulnerable customers find the best tariff available for them.

Information to help households save energy is available through the Government's Act on $CO_2$ advice line run by the Energy Saving Trust.

### Street Lighting: Carbon Emissions

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government the potential effects of a reduction in levels of street lighting on progress against carbon emission reduction targets. [264158]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 17 March 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no plans for such discussions. Decisions on street lighting levels are a matter for local authorities. They are required to report on their progress in reducing carbon emissions in the local authority performance framework. Local authorities have a broad range of means for reducing emissions from their own estates and from their communities.

Salix Finance, funded by DECC through the Carbon Trust, helps with street lighting projects. So far Salix Finance has made approximately £900,000 available in the form of match-funded interest free loans for street lighting projects, which are estimated to deliver annual carbon savings of 1,875 $tCO_2$.

DECC is working to include street lighting in the Carbon Reduction Commitment. This will provide an incentive for local authorities to improve the energy efficiency of street lights. DECC is working closely with Communities and Local Government to develop the policy, in so far as it relates to local authorities.

The Government have also negotiated an implementing measure on street lighting under the Framework Directive for the Eco-design of Energy-using Products. This is expected to significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions and bring cost savings.

### Warm Front Scheme

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average time has been between the payment of a top-up fee and the completion of installation work in cases where Warm Front installations have required a householder top-up to be paid in each year since the introduction of top-ups to the scheme. [255873]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following table shows the average number of days between receipt of a Warm Front top-up payment and completion of installation. These timescales are based upon the latest period for which the data is available—1 June 2005 until 28 October 2008.

*Installations by time band*

| *Scheme year* | *Owner occupied* | *Private rented* | *Average days Combined average* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 34 | 49 | 35 |
| 2006-07 | 32 | 48 | 33 |
| 2007-08 | 23 | 33 | 23 |
| 2008-09[1] | 24 | 57 | 24 |

[1] To end October 2008

### Wind Power

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proposals for wind farms in *(a)* the Thames estuary and *(b)* the English Channel his Department is considering; and if he will make a statement. [279038]

**Joan Ruddock:** DECC does not have any offshore wind farm applications under consideration within the Thames estuary or English channel areas.

On 10 December 2007, the then Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform commissioned a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) on a draft plan for up to an additional 25 GW (installed capacity) of new offshore wind farms, in addition to 8 GW already in planning. This draft plan applies to all English and Welsh territorial waters and the renewable energy zone (UK waters outside 12 nautical miles). The assessment has been subject to a public consultation and a decision is expected in the summer.

Following this decision, the Crown Estate, as landowner of the sea, can proceed with its offshore wind farm leasing programme. The Crown Estate is currently considering proposals within nine indicative round 3 development zones, including two zones in the English channel.

Further details on the Crown Estate round 3 process and a map of indicative areas of potential for offshore wind farm development are available at:

http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/round3

Any proposals that come forward for specific developments under round 3 will subsequently be assessed by the relevant competent authority through the planning process to ensure they are located in appropriate places.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the payment by EU member states of single farm payments based on historic production levels to end. [280390]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The CAP Health Check agreed last November introduced the option for member states to move from a historic to flat rate model of the single payment scheme. It is too early to gauge the extent to which this option will be taken up in practice. However, the member states concerned will be aware that Commissioner Fisher-Boel has signalled that the Commission will propose that optionality be converted to compulsion when the scheme is next reviewed.

## Badgers

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to provide a service for the collection and disposal of badger carcases found *(a)* on land adjacent to individual households and *(b)* in water courses. [280218]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA has no plans to provide a service of this nature. Where badger carcases are found on private land, responsibility for their collection and disposal rests with owner/occupiers. Owner/occupiers of property on which there are badger carcases are advised to contact their local authority for advice on appropriate disposal methods. Local authorities have responsibility for collection and disposal from public grounds and non-trunk roads, while the Highways Agency has responsibility for removal from trunk roads. The Environment Agency will consider taking action to remove carcases from water courses if they are causing pollution or flood risk.

## Bees: Research

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals were consulted during the development of his Department's bee health research Rationale, Objectives, Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation statement. [280723]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* DEFRA's bee health research Rationale, Objectives, Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation statement (ROAME) was included as part of the public consultation on the Healthy Bees plan which commenced on 8 April 2008 and closed on 29 August 2008. The consultation documents were published on the DEFRA website and were sent to the following organisations:

Avon Beekeepers' Association
Bedfordshire Beekeepers' Association
Bee Diseases Insurance Ltd.
Bee Farmers' Association
Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association
British Beekeepers' Association
British Wax Refining Co. Ltd.
Buckingham Beekeepers' Association
Central Association of Beekeepers
Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society
Chesterfield Beekeepers' Association
Commercial Queen Rearers' Association Of The UK
Council of National Beekeeping Associations in the UK
Devon Beekeepers' Association
Durham Beekeepers' Association
Easybee Products
Essex Beekeepers' Association
Furness Beekeepers' Association
Gloucestershire Beekeepers' Association
Great Witley Beekeepers' Association
Harrogate and Ripon Beekeepers
Kendal and S. Westmorland Beekeepers' Association
Kent Beekeepers' Association
Leicestershire and Rutland Beekeepers' Association
London Beekeepers Association
Manchester and District Beekeepers' Association
Meon Valley Beekeepers
Mid-Bucks Beekeepers' Association
National Farmers' Union
Newcastle and District Beekeepers' Association
Northamptonshire Beekeepers' Association
Northumberland Beekeepers' Association
Southport and Formby Beekeepers
Surrey Beekeepers' Association
Thurrock Beekeepers' Association
West Sussex Beekeepers' Association
Wiltshire Beekeepers' Association
Women's Food and Farming Union
BASF plc
Belchim Crop Protection UK
Biological Crop Protection Ltd.
Crop Protection Association
Exosect Ltd.
Koppert UK Ltd.
National Bee Supplies
National Office of Animal Health
Poth Hill and Co. Ltd.
Syngenta Bioline Ltd.
Thornes Beehives
Vita (Europe) Ltd.
BBKA News
Bee Craft
Bicton College
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
C B Dennis British Beekeepers Research Trust
Country Smallholding Magazine
Hadlow College
Horticulture Research International
International Bee Research Association
Marine Biological Association of the UK
Myerscough College
National Diploma in Beekeeping
Natural Environment Research Council
Otley College
Rothamsted Research
Royal Agricultural Society of England
Smallholder Magazine
Honey Association
Honey Importers and Packers Association
Consumers' Association
Food and Drink Federation
Fresh Produce Consortium
First Honey Co-Operative
Health Food Manufactures Association

British Tomato Growers' Association
Commercial Horticultural Association
Cucumber Growers' Association
Horticultural Development Council
Horticultural Trades Association
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services
Local Government Association
National Association of Agricultural Contractors
Natural England
Sitpro Ltd.

The consultation documents were also sent to 31 bee importers and three academics. Individual information cannot be disclosed due to the Data Protection Act. 86 responses were received.

The ROAME statement and the Evidence and Innovation strategy for bee health are published on the DEFRA website.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of Government funding for research related to the honey bee was allocated to *(a)* the National Bee Unit and *(b)* higher education institutions in each of the five financial years to 2007-08. [280724]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]*: The allocations by percentage of DEFRA funding for honey bee health in each of the five financial years prior to 2007-08 are as follows:

*Percentage*

| | *NBU* | *Rothamsted Research* | *Warwick-HRI*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 10.3 | 45.5 | 44.2 |
| 2004-05 | 7 | 41 | 52 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 17.8 | 82.2 |
| 2006-07 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 100 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Horticulture Research International was integrated with the university of Warwick on 1 April 2004 to form Warwick-HRI.

## Dairy Farming

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to provide assistance to dairy farmers financially affected by the taking into receivership of Dairy Farmers of Britain. [280391]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I am deeply concerned and saddened by the situation facing farming members and other employees of Dairy Farmers of Britain, following the announcement to call in the Receivers (PricewaterhouseCoopers) on 3 June.

Publicly-funded schemes such as those available through Business Link are available to assist SMEs (small and medium enterprises) that find themselves in difficulties. Farmers who are in need of business advice should contact Business Link in their region. HMRC's Business Payment Support Service is also available for businesses which are finding it difficult to meet their tax commitments for the sorts of reasons faced by the farmers of Dairy Farmers of Britain.

Ministers have been in discussions with senior industry leaders and officials remain in close contact with the Receivers to ensure that those who might need to access these schemes know how to do so.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to assist farmers affected by Dairy Farmers of Britain being taken into receivership. [281387]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Publicly-funded schemes are available: through Business Link to assist SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises); HMRC's Business Payment Support Service may also enable businesses in difficulties to defer their tax commitments; and the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme.

DEFRA hosted a meeting on 17 June with the Receivers (PricewaterhouseCoopers), Dairy Farmers of Britain Members Council and many other parties to continue co-ordinated efforts and work towards our common goal of minimising the impacts on all those affected.

## Fisheries

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will seek derogations to enable inshore fishermen to continue fishing when their fish merchants are unable to report landing details within the time required. [280662]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 423-24W.

## Litter Abatement Orders

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many litter abatement notices have been issued by each local authority in each of the last five years. [280266]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA does not collect figures on the number of litter abatement notices issued by local authorities; this information is collected by Keep Britain Tidy.

## Newts

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the UK population of *(a)* great crested newts, *(b)* each other endangered species of newt and *(c)* each endangered species of bat; from what baselines changes in the population of each such species is measured; and what criteria would have to be fulfilled for each such species to be removed from the endangered species list. [279198]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The following table provides the latest estimates of UK populations for the bats and newt on the UK list of priority species and habitats. Population estimates have been divided into three components: an actual number of individuals (or populations in the case of the newt), the range which the species occupies within the UK and the population trend.

| Species | UK population[1] | Date | Range[2] | Date | Trend[3] | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barbastelle bat | 86 (10km sq.) | 2008 | 80,939 km² | 1980-2006 | Unknown | 2008 |
| Bechstein's bat | 36 (10km sq.) | 2008 | 31,850 km² | 1980-2006 | Unknown | 2008 |
| Noctule | [4]50,000 (individuals) | 1995 | 158,299 km² | 1980-2006 | No statistically significant change | 1997-2007 |
| Soprano pipistrelle | [5]1,500,000 (individuals) | 1995 | 227,090 km² | 1990-2006 | Stable | 1997-2007 |
| Brown long-eared bat | [6]245,000 (individuals) | 1995 | 234,142 km² | 1980-2006 | Stable | 1997-2007 |
| Greater horseshoe bat | [7]5,689 (individuals) | 2005 | 50,543 km² | 1990-2006 | Increase | 1997-2007 |
| Lesser horseshoe bat | [8]50,000 (individuals) | 2002 | 58,483 km² | 1990-2006 | Increase | 1997-2007 |
| Great crested newt | [9]71,000 (local populations) | 2006 | 157,749 km² | 1980-2006 | Declining (slowing) | 2008 |

[1] Biodiversity Action Reporting System (2008)
[2] Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2007). The report detailing the UK approach can be found here: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/FCS2007_ukapproach.pdf
[3] Biodiversity Action Reporting System (2008). Where available, bat trends are provided by the National Bat Monitoring Programme (Bat Conservation Trust, 2008)
[4] Based on Harris (1995)
[5] Based on Harris (1995)
[6] Based on Harris (1995)
[7] Population estimate is 5,689 (adults counted at 21 breeding sites) * 2.2 = 12518 (Biodiversity Action Reporting System 2008)
[8] Pers. comm. Schofield (2008). The rationale for this figure is based on an approximate doubling of the latest statistically valid figure for Wales (28,000; Matthews & Halliwell, 2008) due to the fact that the total area of the range in England and Wales being roughly equal. (Biodiversity Action Reporting System 2008)
[9] JNCC (2007)

The trends are not measured against a baseline. Baseline information is not relevant to de-listing as the viability of the population would be considered rather than a baseline value to which current population levels would be compared.

The criteria for delisting any species from the UK list of priority species is:

Long-term or underlying decline has been halted and sufficient recovery achieved. This represents compliance with the European 2010 target to halt the loss of biodiversity.

All criteria thresholds for selecting UK priority species have been exceeded.

Sufficient recovery has been undertaken to remove the risk of re-selection and immediate deterioration of state.

Some species are conservation dependant and will always require some conservation action even when desired state has been achieved. Where there is a realistic risk that removing a conservation dependant species from the UK list of priority species will result in the action or protection that the species is dependent upon coming to a halt, then the species will be identified as being 'BAP dependent' and will remain on the UK list of priority species until this is no longer the case, even if the other success criteria have been met.

### Water Charges: Voluntary Organisations

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what effect he expects the guidance he plans to issue to Ofwat on charges to voluntary, religious and sporting not-for-profit organisations for surface water drainage to have on charges to the organisations concerned. [281221]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Guidance was issued by the then Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions in 2000. This states that surface water drainage charges for non-household customers should be set in a way that is sensitive to the actual use of the service by different types of premises. Ofwat, as the independent economic regulator for the water industry, is required to have regard to this guidance.

United Utilities recognised that its switch to site area charging was not in line with this guidance, or Ofwat's more detailed 2003 guidance to water companies. Consequently United Utilities introduced a moratorium on its surface water drainage charges for 2009-10 for faith buildings, community amateur sports clubs (and similar clubs) and properties owned by Scout and Guide associations. This saw surface water drainage charges for these customers revert to 2008-09 levels.

United Utilities is currently working on a revised scheme of charges for 2010-11 and beyond. Ministers are keeping the situation under review.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Detainees

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Bermudan Government has held discussions with the Government of the United States on plans to accept further former detainees from Guantánamo Bay; and if he will make a statement. [280864]

**David Miliband:** The Government of Bermuda have confirmed that they have not discussed with the Government of the United States any plans to accept more former detainees from Guantanamo Bay.

### BBC External Services: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on the BBC World Service in each of the last five years. [281415]

**Chris Bryant:** The BBC World Service has received the following grant in aid funding for the last five financial years

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 265 |
| 2007-08 | 255 |
| 2006-07 | 239.5 |
| 2005-06 | 239 |
| 2004-05 | 225 |

### Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Swedish counterpart on the closure of the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and if he will make a statement. [279701]

**David Miliband:** I maintain a regular dialogue with Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt. I have had a number of discussions with Foreign Minister Bildt on the question of the transition from the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina to EU Special Representative once the '5+2' objectives and conditions set by the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board are met. I have been clear on the Government's view that transition can only take place once the conditions are met.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280931]

**Chris Bryant:** In 2006-07 the total carbon emissions for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK estate was 14,430 tonnes of $CO_2$ emissions ($CO_2e$) equating to 3.8 tonnes of $CO_2e$ per full-time equivalent member of staff (FTE).

In 2007-08 total carbon emissions were 14,502 tonnes of $CO_2e$, equating to 3.8 tonnes of $CO_2e$ per FTE.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport used for administrative operations by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281041]

**Chris Bryant:** In 2006-07 total carbon emissions for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office arising from road-based transport within the UK were 332 tonnes of $CO_2$ emissions ($CO_2e$) equating to 0.09 tonnes of $CO_2e$ per full-time equivalent member of staff (FTE). In 2007-08 total emissions were 260 tonnes of $CO_2e$ equating to 0.07 tonnes per FTE.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280525]

**Chris Bryant:** The Executive Agency, FCO Services (FCOS) shares buildings with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the UK and therefore it is not possible to separate their gas and electricity usage. Figures for our other Executive Agency, Wilton Park, are given separately when known.

*Kilowatt hours*

| | FCO/FCOS | | Wilton Park | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Electricity* | *Gas* | *Electricity* | *Gas* |
| 2004-05 | 19,457,515 | 3,878,744 | 411,676 | 406,431 |
| 2005-06 | 20,856,930 | 4,732,676 | 439,213 | 423,272 |
| 2006-07 | 22,578,615 | 1,341,891 | 451,972 | 402,785 |
| 2007-08 | 22,578,615 | 1,153,023 | 22,677,887 | 419,166 |
| 2008-09 | 29,167,150 | 1,227,509 | [1] | [1] |

[1] The figure for Wilton Park will not be known until the end of July 2009.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280536]

**Chris Bryant:** It is not possible to categorise goods and services purchased for energy efficiency reasons without incurring disproportionate costs. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has undertaken some measures for energy efficient reasons, such as upgrading lighting systems and lowering the office heating temperature.

Other measures have sustainable benefits but were implemented in response to a range of drivers including health and safety and estate rationalisation, for example the installation of more efficient hand dryers and the demolition of energy inefficient modular cabins. Energy efficiency is monitored though the Environmental Management Plan which sets out the actions required to meet the Sustainable Operations in the Government Estate targets. Future energy efficiency measures include installing more water efficient fittings, introducing ground source heat pumps, and putting in smart metering. Sustainability is one of the considerations in the business case for developments on the FCO estate.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280932]

**Chris Bryant:** For 2006-07 total energy consumption for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's UK estate was 33,981,361 kilowatt hours (kWh), equating to 8,879 kWh per full-time equivalent member of staff (FTE). In 2007-08 total consumption was 29,654,679 kWh equating to 7,767 kWh/FTE.

### Departmental Waste

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281040]

**Chris Bryant:** In 2006-07 total waste arising from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's UK estate was 1,797 tonnes, equating to 0.47 tonnes per full-time equivalent member of staff (FTE). The 2007-08 total was 1,212 tonnes, equating to 0.32 tonnes per FTE.

### Departmental Water

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of water consumption on his Department's office estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280930]

**Chris Bryant:** In 2005-06 the total water usage for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK office estate was 55,153 cubic metres equating to 13.7 cubic metres per full-time equivalent member of staff (FTE). In 2006-07 total water usage for the UK office estate was 62,409 cubic metres equating to 16.3 per FTE.

### Gibraltar: Politics and Government

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the inclusion of Gibraltar on the UN's list of territories in the process of decolonisation. [280231]

**Chris Bryant:** The Government believe Gibraltar should not be included on the UN list of non self-governing territories. The 2006 Gibraltar Constitution provides for a modern and mature relationship between Gibraltar and the UK, and Her Majesty's Government regrets that the UN Committee of 24's outdated criteria fail to take this into account. The Government do not consider that any of their Overseas Territories should remain on the UN list.

### Hezbollah

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contacts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Ambassador to Lebanon plan to have with members of Hezbollah's political wing. [277373]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Our objective with Hezbollah remains unchanged: to urge them to reject violence and play a constructive, democratic and peaceful role in Lebanese politics, in line with UN Security Council Resolutions. We believe that occasional and carefully considered contacts with Hezbollah's politicians, including its MPs, will on occasions advance this objective.

### Peru: Ethnic Groups

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on recent incidents of violence in Peru which resulted in the deaths of 54 people from indigenous groups during an operation by the national police in that country. [281385]

**Chris Bryant:** Our embassy in Lima provided reports on protests in Peru's Amazon over land use legislation, which turned violent on 5 June 2009. EU heads of mission in Lima issued the following statement on 9 June 2009 following this tragic development:

"The EU profoundly regrets the tragic events of recent days in the Peruvian Amazon, in particular the loss of human lives, including more than 20 members of the National Police of Peru and an as yet undetermined number of civilians. The EU sends its condolences to the government and people of Peru and to the families of all the victims. The EU calls for restraint to avoid further violence and for a peaceful and lasting solution to the situation through dialogue."

The Peruvian Ombudsman has given the number of confirmed deaths resulting from the violence on 5 and 6 June 2009 as 33. 23 of these were members of the police force and 10 were civilians, including four members of indigenous communities.

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Peru on the establishment of an independent investigation into the recent deaths of indigenous people during incidents of violence in Peru. [281386]

**Chris Bryant:** Since the outbreak of violence on 5 June we have urged all sides to avoid further violence and resolve the dispute through dialogue. This has included contacts between our ambassador to Peru together with EU colleagues and the Peruvian Foreign Minister and between our director for the Americas and the Peruvian ambassador to the UK. We are pleased that a formal dialogue mechanism has now been established between the Government and indigenous leaders. We welcome the Peruvian Government's invitation to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People to investigate these events and the decision by the Peruvian Congress to appoint a multiparty Congressional Commission to carry out its own investigation.

### Sri Lanka: EU External Trade

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to seek an end to the preferred trading arrangements which exist between the EU and Sri Lanka. [280291]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 75W.

## HEALTH

### Accidents: Children

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were admitted to hospital as a result of an accident in school in each month of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [280449]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** I have been asked to reply.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has provided the information in the following table.

The table records figures for Great Britain. No fatal injuries were reported in this period.

*Non-fatal injuries to pupils/students[1] to age 18, reported to all enforcing authorities[2], 2003-04 to 2007-08[3,4]*

| | Year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Month* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08[4]* |
| January | 5 | 12 | 15 | 12 | 19 |
| February | 11 | 8 | 15 | 13 | 9 |
| March | 10 | 6 | 27 | 17 | 16 |
| April | 5 | 8 | 8 | 18 | 5 |
| May | 2 | 9 | 9 | 17 | 9 |
| June | 7 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| July | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| August | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| September | 8 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 13 |
| October | 8 | 11 | 5 | 18 | 19 |
| November | 9 | 13 | 14 | 17 | 18 |
| December | 8 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 16 |
| Total | 77 | 96 | 118 | 147 | 138 |
| Grand total | | | 576 | | |

[1] Identified by Standard Occupational Classification (SOC2000) code 0002 'Student'.

[2] Injuries are reported and defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. These include injuries to employees, self-employed people and members of the public (including students). The information available under RIDDOR 95 includes two categories of severity for members of the public: fatal injuries and non-fatal injuries that cause a person to be taken from the site of the accident to hospital.

[3,4] The annual basis is the planning year 1 April to 31 March. Statistics for planning year 2007/08 are currently provisional.

Technical issues relating to the coding of incidents in the HSE's database mean that there are some data discontinuities. A change during 2003-04 caused an artificial fall in that year in the number of injury reports coded to education and that affects the data series to 2006-07. A subsequent adjustment to the database from the start of 2007-08—to bring about a closer alignment with data prior to 2003-04—has introduced a further discontinuity. HSE statisticians are working to redress these known issues.

### Cancer: Males

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department plans to spend on increasing awareness of cancers affecting men; and if he will make a statement. [280671]

**Ann Keen:** Work to improve cancer symptom awareness and encourage earlier presentation across all cancers, including male cancers, is being taken forward through the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, formally launched in November 2008.

In the last 12 months, the following funding has been awarded to organisations to raise awareness of male cancers specifically at a national level:

As part of the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative's promoting earlier presentation work stream, the Department and the Football Foundation are joint funding the Ahead of the Game programme. Ahead of the Game is a one-year pilot programme that will use the appeal of football to raise awareness of lung, bowel and prostate cancers in men aged 55 and over. The Department has awarded £50,000 for 2009-10, which builds on the £36,000 awarded for this purpose in 2008-09.

The Men's Health Forum has been awarded funding of £45,000 for 2009-10 for its project on increasing bowel screening uptake in men. This forms part of the £135,000 that the charity has received for this purpose over the past three years. In addition, the Men's Health Forum will receive a one year grant of £26,000 in 2009-10 to update its Mini Manual for Men's Cancer.

### Colorectal Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme; and if he will assess the merits of extending it to people between the ages of 50 and 59 years old. [281315]

**Ann Keen:** We are currently rolling out the NHS bowel screening programme across England. Roll-out commenced in April 2006 and full roll-out across the country is on course to be completed by the end of 2009. When fully implemented, around two million men and women will be screened, and around 3,000 cases of bowel cancer detected every year.

As at 4 May 2009, 3,411,763 testing kits had been sent out with 1,955,831 kits having been returned; there had been 34,455 positive results with 3,063 cancers having been detected; and 11,474 patients had polyps removed, which might have progressed to bowel cancer.

From 2010, the NHS bowel cancer screening programme will be extended to men and women aged 70 to 75. By the end of 2010, we will assess whether or not to extend the programme to people in their 50s.

Based on the promising results of a large Cancer UK-funded clinical trial on the use of flexible sigmoidoscopy (FS) in bowel screening, we are funding a £300,000 demonstration study of screening by FS being run by St. Mark's Hospital, London. The pilot is inviting men and women aged 58 to be screened, and it is expected to report later in 2009. The results from the FS pilot will be considered when we assess whether or not to extend the bowel screening programme to people in their 50s.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280510]

**Phil Hope:** The Department and its executive agencies NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have used the following amounts:

| | Department | NHS PASA | Usage (KWh) MHRA |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Electricity* | | | |
| 2004-05 | 14,220,000 | 580,332 | n/a |
| 2005-06 | 13,454,000 | 640,780 | n/a |
| 2006-07 | 12,340,000 | 670,197 | n/a |
| 2007-08 | 12,065,000 | 718,863 | 1,672,164 |
| 2008-09 | 12,105,000 | 724,524 | 1,697,914 |
| *Gas* | | | |
| 2004-05 | 5,604,000 | 442,246 | n/a |
| 2005-06 | 4,636,000 | 500,183 | n/a |
| 2006-07 | 3,835,000 | 426,828 | n/a |
| 2007-08 | 4,176,000 | 521,146 | n/a |
| 2008-09 | 4,575,000 | 450,524 | n/a |

The MHRA are unable to provide electricity information for 2004-07 as the information as the data are not available from their landlord.

These figures are based on actual usage of fuel over the period and differ slightly from the figures submitted as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process, as some buildings were excluded from this exercise. SDiG figures are also weather corrected data.

The information in this answer covers the Department's central administrative estate of Richmond House, Wellington House and Skipton House. The Department is a minor occupier in New Kings Beam House (HM Revenue and Customs) and Quarry House in Leeds (Department of Work and Pensions) and the data for these sites are not available to us. Reductions in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are due to the closure of two London buildings—Eileen House and Hannibal House.

The data supplied for NHS PASA relate to energy used at their Reading, Chester and Sheffield sites.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280544]

**Phil Hope:** The Department is unable to identify how much has been spent specifically on energy efficiency measures as these have been an integral part of our ongoing building maintenance work.

This Department supports and aims to meet the Government's targets to reduce carbon emissions and improve the energy efficiency of the Government estate. While we have increased the efficiency (measured as consumption per $m^2$) of our gas usage, our energy consumption has increased over the period, due largely to our policy of closing buildings and concentrating more staff in our remaining estate.

The changes in energy efficiency of our buildings (measured in kWh per $m^2$) since 1999-2000, which is the earliest year for which figures are available, are:

| | Percentage change (+/-) 2007-08 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|
| Gas/fuel oil | -15 | -16 |
| Electricity | +24 | +29 |
| Total | +9 | +12 |

We have been working with the Carbon Trust over the past two years to identify energy saving measures, and this has been reflected in an improvement in our performance on energy efficiency in 2007-08, compared with 2006-07. We have a number of further initiatives planned, which should improve these figures further in the coming year. This includes upgrading our building management systems and improving the automatic lighting systems in our core London estate and the replacement of boiler plant in two of these buildings.

### Domestic Violence

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* full terms of reference are and *(b)* membership is of the health taskforce to spot signs of violence against women announced on 14 May 2009. [281460]

**Ann Keen:** This is currently under consideration.

### Malnutrition: Screening

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to promote incentives for nutritional screening in *(a)* payment by results and *(b)* community tariff payments in primary care. [280494]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** No steps have been taken by the Department to promote incentives for nutritional screening in the payment by results national tariff or in community services.

There are no specific admitted patient care or outpatient attendance tariffs for nutritional screening, but the costs of this activity are captured in the reference costs which are collected from national health service organisations, and which inform tariff prices. Most community services are outside the scope of payment by results and are funded through block contracts.

### Measles: Vaccination

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of children aged six years and under in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have been inoculated against measles. [280455]

**Gillian Merron:** Information of the percentage of children immunised against measles, mumps and rubella by their fifth birthday by primary care trust is contained in NHS Immunisation Statistics, England 2007-08, which has already been placed in the Library. Information for the hon. Member's constituency is not available.

### Midwives

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwifery training places were commissioned for the 2008-09 academic year. [281125]

**Ann Keen:** Strategic health authorities are responsible for allocating resources from education and training funding to support local initiatives for their staff. The latest figures available are for 2007-08, the figures for 2008-09 are still being collated and validated.

| | *Actual* | *Planned* |
|---|---|---|
| Degree | 1,307 | 1,199 |
| Diploma | 412 | 474 |
| 18-month diploma | 352 | 442 |
| Total | 2,071 | 2,115 |

## MRSA: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of MRSA infection in Milton Keynes have been reported to his Department in each year since 1997. [280876]

**Ann Keen:** Since April 2001, all acute national health service trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of bloodstream infections caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

These data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere. These data are only available by financial year.

*Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust*

| *April to March each year* | *Number of cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 9 |
| 2002-03 | 13 |
| 2003-04 | 7 |
| 2004-05 | 11 |
| 2005-06 | 23 |
| 2006-07 | 19 |
| 2007-08 | 11 |
| 2008-09 | 14 |

## Nutrition: Health Services

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the National Patient Safety Agency is taking to improve *(a)* patient nutrition and *(b)* reporting of nutrition-related incidents involving patients. [280486]

**Ann Keen:** The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) is working with a range of stakeholders including the Department, Welsh Assembly Government, Royal Colleges, professional organisations, and industry to improve patient nutrition.

In April 2009, the NPSA launched the "10 Key Characteristics of Good Nutritional Care" toolkit to assist health and social care providers in the implementation of the good practice. The NPSA has also worked actively with regulators on the development of inspection criteria and guidance for nutrition.

The NPSA has held five workshops between January and March 2009 to engage with primary care organisations and supports the delivery of the Royal College of Nursing "Nutrition Now" workshops. The NPSA has recently part-funded the development of an e-based learning programme related to dysphagia management in partnership with the NHS Core Learning Unit. This includes working with the food industry to improve the quality of texture-modified meals.

In May 2009 the NPSA published an overview of what has been learnt from an analysis of nutrition-related patient safety incidents reported as occurring in England during 2006 and 2007. Data for 2008 are currently under review.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of GPs who screen patients upon their first registration in line with the recommendations of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidelines on Nutrition Support in Adults. [280490]

**Gillian Merron:** This information is not held centrally.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the UK Commission for Employment and Skills on inclusion of nutrition-related training in *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate courses for health professionals. [280491]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is actively working with the Royal Colleges on the further development of their medical specialties curricula to cover public health content, inclusive of lifestyle determinants of health and wellbeing.

National health service staff knowledge and development related to public health is being furthered through a modular approach to learning by the NHS Core Learning Unit. Modules on public health are accessible through induction training and professional development.

## Strokes: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of stroke there were in *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group in Milton Keynes in each year since 1999. [280875]

**Ann Keen:** The following table and notes show how many finished admission episodes for stroke in Milton Keynes primary care trust broken down by age group and sex for the years 1999-2000 to 2007-08.

*Count of finished admission episodes for a primary diagnosis of stroke[1] in Milton Keynes PCT, broken down by age group and sex, for the years 1999-2000 to 2007-08.*
*Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| *Sex* | *Age group* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* | *2005-06* | *2004-05* | *2003-04* | *2002-03* | *2001-02* | *2000-01* | *1999-2000* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Male* | 0-9 | * | 0 | 0 | * | * | * | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 10-19 | 0 | * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * |
| | 20-29 | * | * | * | * | * | 0 | * | 0 | 0 |
| | 30-39 | * | * | * | * | 8 | * | * | * | * |

*Count of finished admission episodes for a primary diagnosis of stroke[1] in Milton Keynes PCT, broken down by age group and sex, for the years 1999-2000 to 2007-08. Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| Sex | Age group | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 2002-03 | 2001-02 | 2000-01 | 1999-2000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 40-49 | 9 | * | 13 | 17 | 12 | 15 | 13 | 6 | 6 |
| | 50-59 | 13 | 10 | 21 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 17 | 8 | 37 |
| | 60-69 | 34 | 12 | 35 | 19 | 38 | 29 | 33 | 28 | 16 |
| | 70-79 | 17 | * | 36 | 31 | 36 | 38 | 50 | 26 | 43 |
| | 80-89 | 30 | 12 | 30 | 41 | 34 | 33 | 34 | 26 | 21 |
| | 90+ | * | * | * | * | 9 | 6 | * | * | 0 |
| | Total male | 114 | 49 | 144 | 147 | 173 | 157 | 155 | 106 | 127 |
| *Female* | 0-9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * |
| | 10-19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * | * | 0 | * | 0 |
| | 20-29 | * | 0 | * | * | * | 0 | 0 | * | 0 |
| | 30-39 | * | * | * | 9 | * | * | * | * | * |
| | 40-49 | 7 | * | * | 12 | 8 | 11 | 10 | 12 | * |
| | 50-59 | 17 | 8 | 17 | 11 | 10 | 12 | * | 12 | 10 |
| | 60-69 | 13 | 8 | 24 | 20 | 28 | 21 | 13 | 14 | 13 |
| | 70-79 | 32 | 7 | 45 | 29 | 26 | 34 | 56 | 42 | 39 |
| | 80-89 | 49 | 21 | 43 | 52 | 43 | 69 | 79 | 50 | 51 |
| | 90+ | 18 | * | 27 | 9 | 13 | 21 | 10 | 14 | 6 |
| | Total female | 140 | 54 | 169 | 147 | 138 | 172 | 178 | 149 | 130 |
| | Total | 254 | 103 | 313 | 294 | 311 | 329 | 333 | 255 | 257 |

*Notes:*

*Ungrossed data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

*Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

This table does not provide a total number of cases of stroke since those dying before reaching hospital or not being admitted to hospital will not be counted. As well as this, anyone suffering from a stroke whilst already admitted to hospital will not be included in the count.

*Primary diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

[1] The following ICD-10 codes have been used:

160 Subarachnoid haemorrhage

161 Intracerebral haemorrhage

162 Other nontraumatic intracranial haemorrhage

163 Cerebral infarction

164 Stroke, not specified as haemorrhage or infarction

*Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*PCT/ strategic health authority (SHA) data quality*

PCT and SHA data was added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

*Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

*Small numbers*

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

*2006-07 data*

There is a decline in 2006-07 compared to previous years. This is due to an error made by Milton Keynes PCT when submitting their data for this year. Their submission was split into two parts, but unfortunately the second submitted file for the year overwrote the first, giving approximately half as many records as there should have been. For this reason it is advised not to compare this year to other years.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## Tranquillisers

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1229-30W, on tranquillisers, what measures his Department intends to take to reduce the level of tranquilliser prescribing. [278060]

**Gillian Merron:** We expect individual prescribers to ensure that tranquilisers are prescribed appropriately depending on the individual needs of patients. In

exercising their professional and clinical judgment, prescribers should consider available guidance and best practice.

The Department issued advice in 1994 and 1999 warning doctors of the dangers of benzodiazepine dependence. The Chief Medical Officer issued further advice in 2004 reminding doctors that benzodiazepines should be prescribed only for short periods. This advice is reiterated in the British National Formulary which is issued to prescribers every six months. Copies are available from:

www.BNF.org

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what results from prescribed medication withdrawal treatments have been reported by the NHS in respect of treatments provided by *(a)* David McKeown, Belfast and *(b)* the tranquilliser withdrawal clinic in Oldham in the last two years. [279386]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department does not hold information about the results from the prescribed medication withdrawal treatment reported by the Oldham withdrawal service, however local information held can be made available by contacting Oldham primary care trust directly.

Any results from work by David McKeown in Belfast, would not be reported to this Department.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### DNA: Databases

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated in respect of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* running costs of the national DNA database. [271365]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The National DNA Database (NDNAD) was established in 1995, when responsibility for the operational management of the NDNAD rested with the Forensic Science Service (FSS) on behalf of the police service. No central records of costs relating to the maintenance of the NDNAD are held prior to 2002, as cost data was incorporated in other costs incurred by the FSS.

In December 2005 the FSS was vested as a Government Owned Company and responsibility for the NDNAD transferred from the FSS to the Home Office. On 1 April 2007 responsibility for the NDNAD transferred from the Home Office to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA).

The costs relating to the maintenance of the NDNAD from 2002-09 are given in the following tables. The costs from 2006-07 are higher than for previous years, because of the complete separation of costs from the FSS, and because the increase in the number of forensic suppliers requires additional resources for accreditation and continuous monitoring. In addition, the costs for 2008-09 include the costs of transferring the physical operation and maintenance of the NDNAD from the FSS to the NPIA ("NDNAD Transition").

It is not possible to break these figures down into capital and running costs.

*Table 1*

£

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NDNAD Services costs | 774,304 | 904,385 | 1,276,823 | 1,245,151 |
| Supplier accreditation costs | 320,507 | 388,047 | 433,828 | 459,192 |
| Total | 1,094,811 | 1,292,432 | 1,710,651 | 1,704,343 |

*Table 2*

£

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| NDNAD Service delivery including delivery of IT development projects | 2,041,743 | 1,600,087 | 1,818,362 |
| Custodian accreditation[1] | 527,677 | 574,817 | 1,512,138 |
| NDNAD transition | n/a | n/a | 960,000 |
| Total | 2,569,420 | 2,174,904 | 4,290,500 |

[1] Custodian accreditation costs prior to 2008-09 are the direct programme costs of the Custodian Accreditation programme and do not include the NPIA staff costs for NDNAD management, administration and data quality. These additional costs have however been included in the figures for 2008-09 onwards.

### Forensic Science Service: Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS, on the Forensic Science Service, what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed restructuring of the Forensic Science Service on employees of the service based in Chorley; and what arrangements he plans to make to retain the skills of employees at the service's laboratory in Chorley. [281135]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* All proposals relating to the restructuring of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) are subject to collective consultation with staff and staff representatives which was launched on 8 June 2009. It must be emphasised that no decisions have been made at this stage, however scientific excellence will remain at the centre of all the FSS and there are no circumstances under which the FSS would consider jeopardising the quality standards and scientific integrity that lie at the heart of organisation.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS, on the Forensic Science Service, what account this proposed restructuring of the Forensic Science Service has taken of the relationship between forensic science research at the University of Central Lancashire and the activities of the service *(a)* in Chorley and *(b)* elsewhere; what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the proposed restructuring on recruitment to the service from the University of Central Lancashire; and if he will publish the approved business plan for the proposed restructuring. [281137]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* The University of Central Lancashire's (UCLAN) forensic science research team does not conduct any research on behalf of the Forensic Science Service (FSS). In recent months, the FSS and UCLAN have started to discuss the potential opportunity for the FSS to offer student placements. However, these discussions are in their early stages and no formal arrangements have been made at this point in time.

There are no plans to publish the Forensic Science Service Business Plan on the grounds of commercial sensitivity.

### Fraud: Forgery

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported instances of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* forgery there have been in each year since 1997. [280669]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Detailed statistics on recorded fraud and forgery offences from 1997 onwards are published in Table 2.04 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2007-08'. A copy of the table can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0708chap2.xls

The Fraud Act 2006 came into force on 15 January 2007 and re-defined offences in the fraud and forgery offence group. At the same time, the counting of cheque and credit card fraud changed from a 'per fraudulent transaction' to a 'per account' basis. These counting rule changes have significantly reduced both the bureaucracy on the police together with the overall total of fraud and forgery offences recorded by them.

For these reasons, the annual Home Office publication 'Crime in England and Wales' focuses on fraud and forgery offences identified by organisations within the industry such as APACS (the UK payments association).

### Human Trafficking: Children

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to tackle child trafficking in the UK. [280707]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Government's strategy for tackling child trafficking is in its Action Plan, published in March 2007 and up-dated in July 2008. A copy can be found at:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/humantrafficking004.htm

### Racially Aggravated Offences

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many racially-motivated crimes were recorded in each police force area in *(a)* each year from 1997-98 to 2002-03 and *(b)* 2008-09. [280855]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information on police recorded crime covers some categories of offence that are deemed to be racially or religiously aggravated. Racially aggravated offences were added to the recorded crime statistics series in April 1999 and religiously aggravated offences were added in April 2002. It is not possible to separately identify those offences of a racial nature from those of a religious nature.

Data for 1999-2000 to 2002-03 is given in the following table. Data for 2008-09 will be published on 16 July 2009.

*Racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police*

*Number of offences*

| *Police force area* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03*[1,2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 240 | 3,292 | 700 | 900 |
| Bedfordshire | 42 | 91 | 134 | 169 |
| British Transport Police | n/a | n/a | n/a | 402 |
| Cambridgeshire | 222 | 262 | 259 | 410 |
| Cheshire | 98 | 216 | 355 | 376 |
| Cleveland | 29 | 46 | 71 | 145 |
| Cumbria | 27 | 44 | 60 | 69 |
| Derbyshire | 263 | 298 | 381 | 560 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 120 | 272 | 321 | 496 |
| Dorset | 83 | 154 | 116 | 177 |
| Durham | 30 | 50 | 89 | 371 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 76 | 81 | 96 | 96 |
| Essex | 87 | 244 | 509 | 558 |
| Gloucestershire | 147 | 187 | 192 | 210 |
| Greater Manchester | 693 | 1,073 | 2,804 | 2,353 |
| Gwent | 97 | 154 | 141 | 193 |
| Hampshire | 273 | 609 | 454 | 317 |
| Hertfordshire | 148 | 177 | 233 | 343 |
| Humberside | 70 | 90 | 149 | 302 |
| Kent | 339 | 463 | 427 | 547 |
| Lancashire | 232 | 408 | 1,057 | 860 |
| Leicestershire | 169 | 295 | 556 | 809 |
| Lincolnshire | 12 | 30 | 26 | 136 |
| London, City of | 40 | 45 | 45 | 71 |
| Merseyside | 234 | 318 | 461 | 734 |
| Metropolitan Police | 13,850 | 11,925 | 10,800 | 9,853 |
| Norfolk | 76 | 87 | 103 | 203 |
| Northamptonshire | 191 | 234 | 294 | 303 |
| Northumbria | 273 | 360 | 538 | 934 |
| North Wales | 35 | 108 | 173 | 288 |
| North Yorkshire | 6 | 15 | 24 | 80 |
| Nottinghamshire | 425 | 620 | 731 | 635 |
| South Wales | 402 | 468 | 624 | 737 |
| South Yorkshire | 98 | 168 | 221 | 242 |
| Staffordshire | 176 | 276 | 646 | 466 |
| Suffolk | 125 | 191 | 272 | 246 |
| Surrey | 168 | 269 | 308 | 407 |
| Sussex | 246 | 434 | 441 | 443 |
| Thames Valley | 420 | 607 | 938 | 948 |
| Warwickshire | 66 | 111 | 181 | 159 |
| West Mercia | 228 | 468 | 661 | 527 |
| West Midlands | 883 | 2,306 | 2,843 | 2,422 |

*Racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police*

*Number of offences*

| *Police force area* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03*[1,2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Yorkshire | 234 | 308 | 501 | 707 |
| Wiltshire | 77 | 118 | 149 | 232 |
| Total | 21,750 | 27,972 | 30,084 | 31,436 |

n/a = Not available.
[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002 and figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.
[2] Includes British Transport Police for 2002-03.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Members: Allowances

**Roger Berry:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what terms of reference have been set for the audit of previously submitted and paid expenses claims by hon. Members; what instructions have been given to those performing the audit; when he expects the audit to be completed; in what form the results of the audit will be published; and whether any external accountancy expertise has been recruited to assist in the audit. [278995]

**Nick Harvey:** Sir Thomas Legg KCB QC has been engaged to carry out the review of four years' claims for Additional Costs Allowance for all Members who have claimed the allowance. His terms of reference are currently under consideration. He will begin work shortly and carry out his review as quickly as possible. He will draw on external professional accountancy expertise as well as help from other sources. His findings will be published in a report in due course.

## JUSTICE

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279496]

**Mr. Straw:** In the last 12 months, neither I, nor any of my Ministers, have had any meetings with representatives of the think-tank Demos and my Department has no record that representatives were present at any public engagement Ministers attended. As my hon. Friend will be aware, my brother Edward Straw is Chairman of Demos. However, I have not had any meetings with him in that capacity.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's and its predecessor's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280532]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide the financial information on energy efficiency measures in each year from 2004-09 and the assessment made of the effectiveness of that expenditure without incurring disproportionate costs.

Actions the Ministry of Justice are taking for future energy efficient measures have been published in the OGC delivery plan:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Delivery_Plan_Update_Dec08.pdf

The Sustainable Development Commission reports annually on Departments' progress against SOGE targets in the Sustainable in Government Report (SDiG). In 2007-08 the Ministry of Justice was rated as having made excellent progress in energy efficiency overall.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280562]

**Mr. Wills:** The official responsible for the energy efficiency of the Ministry of Justice is Marco Pierleoni, director general, finance and commercial, who is also the Department's green champion. However, the Ministry of Justice is in the process of appointing a new director of strategic property who will take over this work of the estate.

### HM Courts Service: Pay

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what financial settlement was reached with the former Chief Executive of HM Courts Service at the end of his tenure. [279894]

**Mr. Straw:** Details of the financial settlement reached with the former chief executive, HM Courts Service is available in the public domain. The question was published on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 841W. It is also detailed in the Ministry of Justice's resource account 2007-08.

Sir Ron De Witt left the Department on 14 December 2007. He received a lump sum compensation payment upon the date of his departure of £405-£410,000. This included a special severance payment of £130-135,000.

### Police Custody: Young People

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juveniles were taken to court for an appearance pending trial from police cells in the last year for which figures are available. [280445]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 17 June 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data held by the Home Office on persons detained by the police and information on court proceedings and transit from police cells to courts held by the Ministry of Justice do not separately identify instances where a juvenile is taken to court during a period of detention.

### Prisoners

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were in a cell intended for *(a)* one and *(b)* two fewer people than were in the cell in 2008-09. [279252]

**Mr. Straw:** The average number of prisoners 'doubled' (held two for a cell certified for one) during 2008-09 was 19,153. This represented 23.1 per cent. of the population.

The number held three for a cell for two during the same period was 1,186. This represents 1.4 per cent. of the population.

In total, 20,339 prisoners were doubled or held three to a cell for two. This represents 24.6 per cent. of the population.

Figures for prisoners held in dormitory accommodation for one fewer person (nine in a dormitory for eight, for example) and data for prisoners in accommodation for two fewer people are not reported separately. Data for this type of overcrowding will be included in the figure for total overcrowding. The average number of prisoners overcrowded (including doubling and three to a cell for two) during 2008-09 was 20,452, representing 24.7 per cent. of the population. On average, 113 prisoners are overcrowded in conditions other than two to a cell for one and three to a cell for two.

Overcrowding where prisoners are held in cells for two fewer people may consist of four in a cell for two or five in a cell for three or nine in a dormitory for eight. The practice of holding three prisoners in a cell certified for one no longer exists; no prisoners have been held in these conditions since 1994.

Since 1997, the Government have increased prison capacity by over 24,000 places (not all of them new build). The Government increased capacity by over 3,300 places last year, aim to increase it by a further 2,000 this year and are committed to increase net capacity to 96,000 by 2014.

### Reoffenders

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences committed within one year of release by former prisoners of each prison cohort since 2000 were not *(a)* identified as incidents of re-offending for more than six months after the offence was committed and *(b)* taken into account in the calculation of published re-offending rates. [281158]

**Maria Eagle:** This information is not available. The data in the 'Re-offending of adults' publication reports on proven reoffending. An offender is said to have committed a proven reoffence if he or she receives a conviction at court for the reoffence. The reoffence must have been committed within the one year follow up period, and the conviction must follow either within that one year follow up, or in a further six months, which is to allow time for the offence to be proven at court.

The data sets used to compile the published reoffending figures do not include information on re-offences that fall outside the six month waiting period.

For more information on the latest reoffending statistics, and on frequency and severity of reoffending please consult:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

### Shoplifting

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent guidance his Department has issued to the courts in relation to the handling of trials for shoplifting offences. [280092]

**Mr. Straw:** Sentencing guidelines are issued to the courts by the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council, not by the Government. In December 2008, the Sentencing Guidelines Council published a definitive guideline on theft and burglary in a building other than a dwelling. This can be found at:

http://www.sentencing-guidelines.gov.uk/docs/Theft%20and%20Burglary%20of%20a%20building%20other%20than%20a%20dwelling.pdf

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympics *(a)* gymnastics, *(b)* wheelchair basketball and *(c)* basketball events at North Greenwich Arena 1. [278973]

**Tessa Jowell:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic Games at existing venues. The direct costs associated with staging the events at existing venues come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. However these costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympics *(a)* badminton, *(b)* rhythmic gymnastics and *(c)* volleyball events at North Greenwich Arena 2. [279445]

**Tessa Jowell:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The direct costs associated with staging the events come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the events. However these

costs have not yet been identified separately for individual events, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

In respect of the North Greenwich Arena 2 the project budget cannot be disclosed at the current time owing to commercial sensitivity.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Clergy: Public Appointments

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Prime Minister when he received recommendations from the diocese of Hereford for the appointment to the position of Bishop of Ludlow. [281389]

**The Prime Minister:** Correspondence between the Church and No. 10 on senior church appointments is confidential. The process for appointing Bishops is set out in 'The Governance of Britain' (Cm7170), copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

### National Security

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Prime Minister what progress has been made on the establishment of a joint committee on the national security strategy. [281464]

**The Prime Minister:** An announcement will be made in due course.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Sentencing: Appeals

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Solicitor-General if the Attorney-General will refer the sentences passed on those responsible for the murder of Ben Kinsella to the Court of Appeal for a review of the minimum term to be served. [281215]

**The Solicitor-General:** A decision to refer a sentence to the Court of Appeal can be made if the sentence appears to the Attorney-General or the Solicitor-General to be unduly lenient. The prosecuting authority or any member of the public can invite us to consider a sentence for referral. This case will accordingly be fully considered within 28 days of the sentence being passed, which is the time limit that applies in all cases.

### Witnesses

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Solicitor-General what compensation for loss of earnings HM Courts Service offers to witnesses in court proceedings who attend court on days when the cases in which they are due to appear are delayed or postponed. [280042]

**The Solicitor-General:** Whether the case is heard, delayed or postponed the CPS provides a compensatory allowance for loss of earnings to witnesses who attend court at its request.

The rates currently in operation for ordinary witnesses provide a maximum of £33.50 for an absence from work not exceeding four hours, and £67.00 for an absence from work exceeding four hours. These payments are not subject to income tax or other statutory deductions.

The rates payable by the CPS are adopted by Her Majesty's Courts Service for defence witnesses, and by other prosecuting authorities.

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Solicitor-General when the rates for *(a)* expenses and *(b)* allowances payable to witnesses appearing in court proceedings were last set; how the rates are determined; and how often the rates are (i) reviewed and (ii) amended. [280043]

**The Solicitor-General:** The rates for witness expenses and allowances, which are paid in accordance with the Crown Prosecution Service (Witnesses' etc Allowances) Regulations 1988, are reviewed annually by the CPS in consultation with the Ministry of Justice and the Serious Fraud Office. They were last reviewed in July 2008 and amended from 1 September 2008 to allow for the reimbursement of any congestion charge paid by a witness in making a journey to court.

The regulations allow for the payment of the cost of transport to and from court, meals and refreshments, hotel accommodation if necessary, and loss of earnings. The travel and subsistence allowances are very similar to allowances made to civil servants, and are adjusted when civil service allowances are revised. The loss of earnings allowance is set broadly in line with the national average salary and by comparison to rates paid to jurors attending court for the purpose of public duty.

## TRANSPORT

### Driving Tests: Motorcycles

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire (Lembit Öpik) of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 12W, on driving tests: motorcycles, how many *(a)* injury and *(b)* non-injury incidents have occurred during the swerve and stop element of the motorcycle test since 15 May 2009. [280882]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* Between the 16 May and 12 June 2009, 5,317 Module 1 tests have been conducted and there have been reported *(a)* one injury and *(b)* five non-injury incidents during the avoidance and controlled stop manoeuvre of the motorcycle test.

### Ports

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average time taken to approve a harbour variation order was in the last five years. [281459]

**Paul Clark:** Since June 2004 the Department for Transport has made 23 Harbour Revision or Empowerment Orders. The average time from the date of application

to making, not including time for production of an Environmental Statement where necessary, was three years and 11 weeks. The longest time was just under eight years, the shortest just over nine months. Our reforms to the planning process under the Planning Act 2008 and the Marine and Coastal Access Bill have been designed to reduce the time taken to determine such orders.

## TREASURY

### Banks: Public Consultation

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a progress report on his consultation on a code of conduct for banks; which organisations and companies *(a)* have been and *(b)* will be consulted; and how the terms and details of the consultation are being publicised. [281384]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Revenue and Customs are in regular contact with banks and tax advisers from major accountancy firms concerning the code of practice on taxation for banks.

The code of practice will be published shortly for public consultation.

### Child Trust Fund: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child trust vouchers have been issued to residents in Milton Keynes North East constituency; how many accounts have been opened by residents of the constituency; and what his estimate is of the value of those accounts. [280878]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The most recent constituency level statistics on child trust fund accounts were published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

HMRC does not have data on the value of child trust funds at constituency level.

### Debts

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the total amount of household debt in the UK. [281463]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Bank of England collects and publishes statistics on household borrowing and household debt. The full Bank of England dataset can be found at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/mfsd/iadb/FromShowColumns.asp?Travel=NIx&SearchText=VTXC

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09; [280528]

(2) how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures; [280539]

(3) which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280551]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Treasury is committed to improving the energy efficiency of its departmental estate and reducing its energy use year on year.

The permanent secretary to the Treasury, as principal accounting officer, has overall responsibility for the efficient use of resources to deliver the Department's objectives.

Detailed information on the Treasury Group's energy consumption since 2005-06 by building were published in HM Treasury's departmental report for 2007-08 (Cm 7408). Updates on progress will be provided annually. Figures for 2004-05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Measures taken over the last year which have led to increased energy efficiency include improvements to heating, air conditioning and lighting system controls and replacement of local radiator controls in the Treasury building with more efficient ones. In March 2009, the Treasury successfully achieved certification under the Carbon Trust Standard.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies, *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(d)* the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last three years; and at what cost in each such year. [279340]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The number of full-time equivalent press officers employed by the Treasury Group (HMT, OGC, DMO), HMRC (including all regional offices) and the Valuation Office in each of the last three years is as follows:

| | *1 April 2007* | *1 April 2008* | *1 April 2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Treasury Group | 10.66 | 11.66 | 11.66 |
| HMRC and Valuation Office | 43.84 | 40.09 | 38.28 |

The information on costs for the Treasury Group (HMT, OGC and DMO), HMRC and the Valuation Office for each year since 1997 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure the early publication of the Chadwick Review into payment of compensation to policy holders who lost money in the collapse of Equitable Life. [279571]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Sir John Chadwick is well aware of the need to bring this matter to a conclusion and will provide his advice to the Government as quickly as he is able. To assist Sir John in his task the Government are providing all the support and resources he needs.

Sir John set out his proposed approach to his work on 16 June 2009: details are available on his website at:

http://www.chadwick-office.org

through which interested parties can keep informed of his work and make representations to his office.

Sir John will continue to make regular updates as his work progresses.

### Immigration: Gurkhas

**Damian Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on public expenditure of the admission to the UK of 36,000 Gurkhas residents. [275904]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Government's position on settlement rights for Gurkhas who served in the Brigade of Gurkhas before July 1997 was set out in the Home Secretary's statement to the House on 21 May 2009. On the basis that 36,000 Gurkhas plus their dependants settled in the United Kingdom, the Government estimated that the annual cost would be approximately £1.4 billion. On the basis that 10,000 to 15,000 applicants plus their dependants settle in the UK, the Government estimate that the costs are likely to be £300 million to £400 million a year. This does not take into account the potential revenue from national insurance contributions, income tax or indirect taxes.

### Intestacy

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost to the public purse was of managing the estate of a person dying intestate without relatives in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average time taken to distribute such an estate was in the latest period for which figures are available. [281314]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Bona Vacantia Division at the Treasury Solicitor deals with estates over £500 where the deceased person has died intestate without known entitled kin and is domiciled in England and Wales (except Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster).

The average cost for dealing with these estates is £1,549. This is based on 2008-09 data (the most recent complete financial year).

These estates are not distributed. Assets are collected and liabilities of the estate are paid. Once the administration of the estate is fully completed the balance of monies held are forwarded to the Treasury, to go into the Consolidated Fund.

Based on 2008-09 data, the average time taken to deal with an estate where a grant of Letters of Administration is required from the Probate Registry Office (net estates over £15,000) is 92.33 days. The figure provided is taken from the date the grant was received to the date the file was closed.

In cases where a grant of Letters of Administration is not needed (net estates less than £15,000) the average time taken to deal with these estates is 140.03 days. This figure is taken from the date a file is open to the date the file is closed.

### Northern Rock: Compensation

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to announce *(a)* the valuation of suspended shares in Northern Rock and *(b)* arrangements for the compensation for shareholders; and if he will make a statement. [280789]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Following a competitive process, the Treasury announced last September that it had appointed Andrew Caldwell, Valuations Partner at BDO Stoy Hayward, as independent valuer to assess any compensation that may be payable to those affected by the transfer of the shares in Northern Rock to the Treasury.

The valuer is currently conducting the valuation exercise to determine the value of the shares in Northern Rock in accordance with the Northern Rock Compensation Scheme Order 2008 and will conclude the task as soon as practicable. The valuer is independent and is responsible for his own process and timing. Further information about the valuation process can be found on the independent valuer's website at:

www.northernrockvaluer.org.uk

### Royal Bank of Scotland

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons his Department has refused requests for the release of information pertaining to meetings between Lord Myners, staff of his Department and representatives of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) held between 6 and 13 October 2008 on pensions and bonuses for outgoing executives of RBS, including Sir Fred Goodwin. [277700]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** So as not to prejudice free and frank discussions the Government do not normally publish details of all meetings. I have nothing further to add to the answer given on 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1275W.

## WALES

### Annual reports

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* print run of his Department's annual report for 2009 is; and how many copies his Department has distributed. [281193]

**Mr. Hain:** The cost of producing the Wales Office Annual Report 2009 was £10,248.30.

250 copies have been printed.

Currently more than 120 copies have been distributed. We expect the remaining copies to be sent out on request over the coming year.

## Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used on his Department's estate in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280529]

**Mr. Hain:** Electricity usage for the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 is displayed in the following table. These figures relate to my Department's main London building.

| | *Usage (Kwh)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 79,101 |
| 2006-07 | 65,452 |
| 2007-08 | 73,236 |
| 2008-09 | 56,042 |

The figures for 2004-2005 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. For my Department's leased office space in Cardiff, energy costs are included in the fixed annual service charge and cannot be given as a specific component.

The sole use of gas in the Wales Office estate is for heating the main London building. This is provided by the Whitehall District Heating System and figures specific to the Wales Office cannot be calculated.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280540]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office has a very small estate, consisting of a main building in London and serviced office space we lease in Cardiff.

The Department's main building is Grade 2 listed and consequently we are limited in the in the work we can do. There has not been any direct spending since 2004 on works specifically to improve energy efficiency, although when undertaking any maintenance or building work we take energy efficiency into account.

We are now working on a Sustainable Development Plan, which will include further steps to improve energy efficiency.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280550]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office is committed to energy efficiency and all staff appreciate that they have a role to play in this and in wider environmental and sustainability issues. For example, staff switch off computer equipment and lights at the end of each day. The Department's approach and strategy is managed by the Corporate Services Branch.

## Devolution

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what seminars his Department has conducted for other Government Departments on the devolution settlement in Wales in the last three years; who spoke at each seminar; who attended from each Department; and what the cost of each seminar was. [281254]

**Mr. Hain:** Following the Government of Wales Act 2006, the Wales Office officials and lawyers continue to work with Cabinet Office, Ministry of Justice and other territorial Offices to deliver a programme of seminars across UK Government Departments. These seminars are designed to promote devolution awareness and understanding of the settlements across the UK Government.

## Economic Summit Cost

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much each All Wales Economic Summit cost; and who *(a)* spoke at and *(b)* attended each summit. [281192]

**Mr. Hain:** The All Wales Economic Summits are organised and hosted by the Welsh Assembly Government, therefore the UK Government have no involvement in the cost of the summits. Each summit has had a different focus, and the invited attendees list has reflected this. Everyone who attends the summits has an opportunity to speak, should they so wish.

The summits provide an excellent arena for informed debate on the issues affecting Wales, resulting from the global economic downturn. They provide all interested parties, such as business, employment and skills and charity organisations, with the opportunity to report directly to UK Government and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers the difficulties that they are facing on a daily basis.

## Public Expenditure

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the provision of lawyers employed by his Department to speak at National School of Government legal training courses. [281194]

**Mr. Hain:** Raising awareness and knowledge of the devolution settlement and of the role of the Wales Office is integral to the work of Wales Office lawyers. As part of this role they have in the last year spoken at several training courses held by the National School of Government. We estimate that travelling and related costs (which will often include travelling which would have been undertaken for other purposes) were less than £1,400.

## Welsh Language

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he plans to publish his Department's revised Welsh language scheme. [281199]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office continues to work with the Welsh Language Board to revise its Welsh language scheme, and will aim to finalise this document in the coming year.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Government Equalities Office: Market Research

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each year since 2007; what surveys were commissioned; and what the purpose of each was. [279369]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Since the establishment of the Government Equalities Office (GEO) on 12 October 2007, the GEO Research and Analysis Team has conducted or commissioned a range of research on equality issues using a variety of research methods.

Based on current records, Table 1 lists research projects involving opinion survey (defined broadly here as any surveys of the public to acquire relevant information) commissioned by the Department from October 2007 and the GEO's expenditure on this research by financial year. Table 2 sets out research projects involving focus groups, commissioned by the Department and the associated total annual expenditure by financial year. Table 3 presents information on any other forms of market research commissioned by GEO and associated costs by financial year.

A number of these research projects combine a mixture of research methods, for which it is not possible to disaggregate the specific cost of surveys or focus groups. Under these circumstances, the total cost of the project has been provided, and is included in only one place in the tables (to avoid the double-counting of costs).

*Table 1: Research involving opinion surveys, by financial year*

| Year | Research | Purpose | Total annual costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | Attitudes to prostitution | To explore public attitudes to prostitution. | 125,586 |
| | Flexible working | To explore how flexible working can help carers combine paid work and caring responsibilities, and any constraints. | |
| | Women in business | To establish the reasons for and experiences of women starting their own business. | |
| | Impact of the economic downturn on women and families | To explore how the downturn has affected the concerns and experiences of women and men. Please note this research involved focus groups and opinion surveys for which the costs cannot be disaggregated. | |
| 2009-10 | Perceptions of offenders' gender and sentencing ongoing research) | To establish public perceptions of offenders' gender and sentencing. | 13,515 |
| | Awareness of right to request flexible working among parents | To assess awareness of the right to request flexible working among carers and parents. | |

*Table 2: Research involving focus groups, by financial year*

| Year | Research | Purpose | Total annual costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | Routes to power | To explore ethnic minority women's routes into, through, and out of decision-making positions. Please note this research involved a range of methods. The cost of the focus groups cannot be disaggregated from the total project cost. | 53,550 |
| | Women take part | To examine the participation of women, in particular under-represented women, in governance and decision making, in community and public life. Please note this research involved a range of methods. The cost of focus groups cannot be disaggregated from the total project cost. | |
| 2008-09 | Perceptions of fair and equal treatment (ongoing research) | To examine perceptions of fair treatment | 28,252 |

*Note:*
Impact of the economic downturn on women and families involved focus groups and opinion surveys. To avoid double counting, the costs for this project have been included in Table 1 not Table 2.

*Table 3: Other forms of market research, by financial year*

| Year | Research | Purpose | Total annual costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | The use of age-based practices in financial services (ongoing research) | To explore how age-based practices are used in financial services. Please note this research involves a range of methods. The cost of the market research element cannot be disaggregated from the total project costs. | 120,000 |

### Rape: Victim Support Schemes

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 826W, on rape: victim support schemes, for what reason £200,000 of the £1.1 million special fund for rape crisis centres had not been paid out. [281481]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** All monies from the special fund for rape crisis centres were paid out by the end of the financial year (2008-09).

The Government Equalities Office paid out £900,000 from the special fund in grants to individual centres, ensuring that no rape crisis centre closed. Following consultation with the contributing departments, a further £230,000 was paid out to the two main umbrella bodies for the sexual violence voluntary sector—Rape Crisis England and Wales and The Survivors' Trust—for them to help their member groups build capacity. These grants are listed in the tables of grants referenced in the answer given on 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1241-42W.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Asbestos: Documents

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the document retention policies of the Health and Safety Executive are in relation to documents it has collected since 1984 under the Asbestos (Licensing) Regulations 1983. [278979]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Documents collected by HSE since 1984 under the Asbestos Licensing Regulations are retained in accordance with HSE's retention policy. Archive paper files are reviewed for further retention after nine years and electronic files after seven years. If at that stage a judgment is made that the material should be retained the next review would be after 25 years. At 25 years it could be destroyed, archived, or kept for a further agreed period of time for operational reasons. Paper documents whose contents have been saved electronically may not be retained. Files of documents identified as relating to health, including asbestos health related files, are retained for 40 years.

### Cabinet: Glasgow

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what car journeys were taken attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273934]

(2) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) she and (ii) officials in her Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273936]

**Jim Knight:** For information in relation to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

### Departmental Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many notifications her Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278723]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department will publish in its Resource Accounts for 2008-09 details of incidents involving personal data that have been notified to the Information Commissioner during the year to 31 March 2009. The accounts are currently being finalised. Details of the notifications made to the Commissioner in respect of incidents arising in the year commencing 1 April 2009 will be published in the Resource Accounts for 2009-10.

### Departmental Travel

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on tickets for *(a)* air and *(b)* rail travel for (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in her Department which were not used in each of the last three years. [280010]

**Jim Knight:** Unfortunately, the data requested are not held centrally by the Department and to gather them could be achieved only at a disproportionate cost.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what back to work support will be provided to people claiming employment and support allowance for two years or more. [255128]

**Jim Knight:** As announced in the White Paper "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future", the support provided to new employment and support allowance customers through pathways to work will be extended from the current six mandatory work-focused interviews, in the first eight months of the claim, to include quarterly work-focused interviews up to the two-year point after claiming. Beyond this claimants will be able to access support through pathways to work voluntarily and will also be able to receive help from the new specialist disability employment programme, which is due to be launched in October 2010. This new programme will be for those disabled people who have complex barriers to employment and will ensure that they have access to the right level of support based on their individual needs, to help them prepare for, enter and/ or retain employment.

As we set out in the White Paper, we will need to introduce further changes gradually and extend the work-focused interviews regime beyond current time periods as resources allow. This is consistent with the direction of travel set by David Freud in his report "Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future of welfare to work" and further developed in the recent review by Professor Paul Gregg. The Invest to Save pathfinders, due to begin in five areas from spring 2011, will help to increase our understanding of how best to support long term claimants with a health condition or disability into work.

### Employment Schemes

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions she has had with her ministerial colleagues on the prevention of the practices of creaming and parking in relation to work placements arranged by potential providers under contracted out employment services; and if she will make a statement. [275468]

**Jim Knight:** DWP published the Commissioning Strategy in February 2008. This provides a set of principles to incentivise providers to support all customers on contracted employment provision. Longer and larger contracts will make provision attractive to a broader range of providers. This competition for and within contracts will incentivise providers to drive up performance offers, and the number of people they plan to get into work. Competition for

flexible new deal contracts has been fierce, and preferred bidders have committed to get more people into work than the best of existing provision, employment zones.

Flexible new deal will replace a diverse patchwork of contracts with just 24. This will enable DWP to strengthen its contract management function. Contract managers will require suppliers to uphold their commitments, including how they provide support for all our customers.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many businesses have received the recruitment subsidy element of the six-month offer announced on 12 January 2009 via Jobcentre Plus; how many enquiries on the scheme have been received; and if she will make a statement. [276733]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not available.

### Equitable Life Assurance Society

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Equitable Life. [277972]

**Jim Knight:** I can confirm that I have not had any discussions with ministerial colleagues in HM Treasury regarding Equitable Life.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent under the Future Jobs Fund. [280338]

**Jim Knight:** We published our bidding criteria for the Future Jobs Fund and invited bids on 13 May. The initial set of bids will be assessed during the summer and we hope to be in a position to announce the first set of awards in August, with the first placements beginning later in the autumn.

As the assessment of bids has not yet taken place, no funding allocations have yet been made.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will bring forward proposals to make it mandatory for incapacity benefit assessors to take account of the advice of a person's GP during that person's assessment for incapacity benefit. [281256]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The provision of medical evidence from a person's GP is required under current regulations. This evidence is gathered as part of the process for claiming incapacity benefit before a personal capability assessment takes place. Additionally, the Department's external medical provider regularly requests additional medical evidence from GPs according to the circumstances of the case. All the available evidence is taken into account by the decision maker in deciding whether or not a person is incapable of work and entitled to incapacity benefit.

### Job Creation: Finance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding her Department has allocated to the Future Jobs Fund for 2009-10. [275699]

**Jim Knight:** The Future Jobs Fund has been allocated £300 million for 2009-10.

### Jobcentre Plus: Complaints

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many formal complaints were received by Jobcentre Plus in each region in each of the first three quarters of 2008-09. [265042]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many formal complaints were received by Jobcentre Plus in each region in each of the first three quarters of 2008-09. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information you requested is in the following table.

*Jobcentre Plus complaints received*

| Region | April to June 2008 | July to September 2008 | October to December 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 285 | 302 | 247 |
| East of England | 733 | 1,194 | 1,071 |
| London | 465 | 633 | 485 |
| North East | 513 | 549 | 500 |
| North West | 1,013 | 956 | 961 |
| Scotland | 1,052 | 1031 | 987 |
| South East | 1,056 | 1,165 | 1,243 |
| South West | 1,333 | 1,590 | 1,531 |
| Wales | 618 | 833 | 747 |
| West Midlands | 815 | 880 | 864 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 719 | 761 | 719 |

*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus

### Jobcentre Plus: Labour Turnover

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant by Jobcentre Plus in each region in (i) January and (ii) February 2009. [264852]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff were recruited and made redundant by Jobcentre Plus in each region in January and February 2009. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In response to recent economic events Jobcentre Plus is deploying extra resources:

Some 4,000 more staff than in our original Spending Review plans have been recruited Nov 2008-Feb 2009. All of this new resource will be applied to customer-facing services.

In line with the recent Pre-Budget Report, Jobcentre Plus will be in a position to deploy some 6,000 additional staff by end of 2009/10 than was originally planned.

The total number of people joining Jobcentre Plus and the number of people leaving Jobcentre Plus under Early Release arrangements in each region for January and February 2009 are in the attached tables. Within the period referred to, Jobcentre Plus did not make any member of staff compulsorily redundant.

*Jobcentre Plus new recruits—full-time equivalents*

| *Region* | *January 2009* | *February 2009* |
|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 171 | 63 |
| East of England | 70 | 40 |
| London | 74 | 40 |
| North East | 36 | 23 |
| North West | 132 | 121 |
| Scotland | 109 | 111 |
| South East | 140 | 73 |
| South West | 104 | 37 |
| Wales | 134 | 66 |
| West Midlands | 65 | 56 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 90 | 63 |
| Total | 1,125 | 693 |

*Note:*
The data reflects the number of recruits accounted for in the Department's extract from the payroll.

*Jobcentre Plus leavers under early release arrangements—headcount*

| *Region* | *January 2009* | *February 2009* |
|---|---|---|
| East of England | 0 | 1 |
| North West | 0 | 1 |
| Scotland | 3 | 3 |
| South West | 0 | 4 |
| Wales | 8 | 0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 12 | 9 |

*Note:*
No one was made compulsorily redundant and these leavers were as a result of office closures, mismatches in locations and staffing requirements and other unavoidable circumstances.

## Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many personal advisers Jobcentre Plus employed in each region in each of the last 12 months. [272657]

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many personal advisers Jobcentre Plus employed in each region in each of the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table enclosed shows the number of personal advisers in each Jobcentre Plus region in each month for the period March 2008 to February 2009.

*Personal advisers by region*

| | *2008* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *March* | *April* | *May* | *June* | *July* | *August* |
| Total numbers | 9,147 | 8,918 | 8,930 | 8,966 | 9,033 | 9,014 |
| East of England | 615 | 602 | 610 | 620 | 628 | 644 |
| East Midlands | 549 | 540 | 543 | 547 | 559 | 566 |
| London | 1,479 | 1,465 | 1,462 | 1,449 | 1,444 | 1,420 |
| North East | 594 | 584 | 589 | 590 | 592 | 587 |
| North West | 1,288 | 1,243 | 1,257 | 1,254 | 1,254 | 1,259 |
| Scotland | 956 | 920 | 918 | 931 | 968 | 946 |
| South East | 754 | 722 | 720 | 728 | 739 | 772 |
| South West | 593 | 566 | 562 | 561 | 560 | 555 |
| Wales | 509 | 495 | 496 | 498 | 501 | 491 |
| West Midlands | 910 | 912 | 924 | 926 | 924 | 911 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 901 | 870 | 871 | 861 | 864 | 863 |

| | *2008* | | | | *2009* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *September* | *October* | *November* | *December* | *January* | *February* |
| Total numbers | 9,157 | 9,160 | 9,160 | 9,177 | 9,492 | 9,523 |
| East of England | 654 | 653 | 658 | 654 | 671 | 670 |
| East Midlands | 588 | 595 | 588 | 593 | 599 | 611 |
| London | 1,445 | 1,444 | 1,444 | 1,430 | 1,449 | 1,449 |
| North East | 600 | 589 | 579 | 578 | 603 | 606 |
| North West | 1,299 | 1,308 | 1,310 | 1,331 | 1,403 | 1,400 |
| Scotland | 948 | 952 | 937 | 950 | 983 | 978 |
| South East | 782 | 789 | 776 | 776 | 835 | 855 |
| South West | 554 | 540 | 536 | 542 | 568 | 581 |
| Wales | 490 | 493 | 504 | 512 | 532 | 524 |
| West Midlands | 926 | 930 | 935 | 939 | 961 | 952 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 871 | 865 | 874 | 873 | 890 | 897 |

## Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter of 10 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan. [280746]

**Jim Knight:** A reply was sent to the right hon. Member on 21 March 2009.

## New Deal Schemes

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* the New Deal for Young people, *(b)* the New Deal for 25 plus, *(c)* the New Deal for 50 plus, *(d)* the New Deal for Disabled People, *(e)* the New Deal for Lone Parents, *(f)* the New Deal for Partners, *(g)* Employment Zones and *(h)* Pathways to Work in each year from 2007 to 2015. [266108]

**Jim Knight:** The table shows the relevant expenditure (actual and planned) for the financial years 2007-08 to 2010-11 inclusive. Figures for 2007-08 represent actual expenditure as published in the Departmental Report, and those for 2008-09 represent estimated outturn, pending final audit—actual expenditure will be published in the departmental report later this year. Estimates have not been made beyond the current spending review period, so no figures are available for years from 2011 to 2015.

*£ million*

| | | | *Budgets* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Programme* | *Outturn 2007-08* | *Estimated outturn 2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| Total new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus | 398.3 | 421.8 | 434.7 | 237.2 |
| New deal for 50 plus | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| New deal for disabled people | 78.4 | 34.1 | 48.8 | 50.2 |
| New deal for lone parents | 60.4 | 29.5 | 34.0 | 62.7 |
| New deal for partners | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Employment zones | 123.0 | 118.4 | 110.7 | 18.2 |
| Pathways to work | 69.5 | 127.8 | 195.9 | 219.0 |

*Note:*
Figures for new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus are not accounted for separately so the combined totals are shown. The figure includes spend/budget on private sector leads, new deal for musicians, new deal self employment, work trials and new deal allowances paid to customers.

### Unemployment: Lancashire

**Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former employees of her Department are registered as unemployed at Jobcentre Plus's offices in *(a)* the Borough of Wyre, *(b)* the Borough of Fylde, *(c)* the Borough of Blackpool and *(d)* the City of Preston. [279458]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not available. Details of previous employers are not collated centrally.

### Welfare Reform Bill

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what safeguards will be put in place to ensure that the provisions of *(a)* clause 9 of and *(b)* Schedule 3 to the Welfare Reform Bill are compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. [275425]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* Clause 9 of and schedule 3 to the Welfare Reform Bill confer a number of new regulation-making powers allowing for requirements to be imposed on people claiming jobseeker' allowance or employment and support allowance who are dependent on drugs or who have a propensity to misuse drugs. The regulations will include a range of safeguards to ensure that the requirements are compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. The Government are considering including the following measures in particular:

before a benefit sanction is applied for failure to comply with a mandatory element of the policy, customers will have the opportunity to argue they had good cause for failing to comply with the new arrangements;

the content of rehabilitation plans will be agreed with the individuals concerned, including any drug treatment that will be undertaken;

the sharing of data with other organisations will be proportionate and administered in line with existing protocols; and

drug testing will be used in a proportionate way to help establish problematic drug use in cases of dispute.

The affirmative parliamentary procedure will apply to the regulations so, before they can come into force, they will have to be approved in draft by both Houses.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 22 June 2009*

## WALES

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many breaches of information security there have been in his Department in the last five years. [281095]

**Mr. Hain:** There have been no breaches of information security in the Wales Office in the last five years.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Antisocial Behaviour

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has made an assessment of the effectiveness of anti social behaviour orders during the last four years. [281461]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office had begun a review of antisocial behaviour orders in Northern Ireland but this was superseded by the 2008 Criminal Justice Inspectorate's review of antisocial behaviour orders.

The review concluded that there has been a sensible approach to the introduction of antisocial behaviour orders in Northern Ireland. The review also highlighted that antisocial behaviour orders are used as part of a staged approach to tackling antisocial behaviour alongside other interventions such as warnings and acceptable behaviour contracts.

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278829]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table shows the number and proportion of invoices paid by the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, and its agencies within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months.

| | *NIO*[1] | | *NIPS*[2] | | *Comp. Agency*[3] | | *FSNI*[4] | | *YJA*[5] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Invoices* | % | *Invoices* | % | *Invoices* | % | *Invoices* | % | *Invoices* | % |
| *2008* | | | | | | | | | | |
| June | 291 | 5.4 | 626 | 33.8 | 32 | 74.4 | — | — | — | — |
| July | 874 | 15.3 | 486 | 24.4 | 20 | 58.8 | — | — | — | — |
| August | 1,981 | 66.9 | 759 | 38.8 | 29 | 70.7 | — | — | — | — |
| September | 1,523 | 45.7 | 757 | 36.3 | 22 | 56.4 | — | — | — | — |
| October | 2,002 | 48.0 | 913 | 37.3 | 29 | 72.5 | — | — | — | — |
| November | 2,542 | 58.7 | 896 | 39.1 | 21 | 75.0 | 86 | 36.6 | — | — |
| December[6] | 2,692 | 82.5 | 1,448 | 80.7 | 30 | 83.7 | 166 | 46.5 | 679 | 93.7 |
| *2009* | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 3,122 | 79.0 | 2,688 | 76.2 | 25 | 92.6 | 141 | 57.6 | 593 | 76.3 |
| February | 3,231 | 82.6 | 1,749 | 83.4 | 27 | 100 | 219 | 80.2 | 524 | 77.6 |
| March | 3,611 | 82.2 | 2,141 | 85.8 | 33 | 100 | 254 | 76.7 | 739 | 79.7 |
| April | 3,026 | 83.3 | 1,109 | 72.2 | 31 | 100 | 185 | 69.6 | 505 | 65.2 |
| May | 3,074 | 91.6 | 1,770 | 89.3 | 23 | 95.8 | 136 | 69.2 | 427 | 80.9 |

[1] Northern Ireland Office including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland.
[2] Northern Ireland Prison Service.
[3] Compensation Agency.
[4] Forensic Science Northern Ireland.
[5] Youth Justice Agency.
[6] Figures for invoices paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months for Forensic Science Northern Ireland are only available from November 2008.
[7] Figures for invoices paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months for Youth Justice Agency are only available from December 2008.
[8] The Northern Ireland Office and it agencies revised procedures for the processing and payment of invoices following guidance issued by the Cabinet Office on 17 November 2008 relating to a target to pay invoices within 10 days with effect from 1 December 2008. Prior to December 2008 the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies sought to comply with the "The Better Payments Practice Code" for achieving good payment performance in commercial transactions. Under this Code, the policy was to pay bills in accordance with contractual conditions or, where no such conditions exist, within 30 days of receipt of goods and services or the presentation of a valid invoice, whichever is the later.

### Employment Tribunals

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277421]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table details the 10 actions brought against the Northern Ireland Office core Department in the last three financial years. Of these, one was withdrawn by the complainant and four were settled prior to hearing. The remaining five cases have not yet reached tribunal stage.

| Category of action | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | Total per category |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sex discrimination | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Fair employment discrimination | 3 | — | 1 | 4 |
| Equal pay | — | — | 4 | 4 |
| Unlawful deduction of wages | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Total per year | 4 | 1 | 5 | 10 |

### Police Service of Northern Ireland

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many *(a)* Protestant, *(b)* Roman Catholic and *(c)* non-determined applicants for the Police Service of Northern Ireland there were in (i) the most recent recruitment competition and (ii) all recruitment competitions since the inception of the 50/50 recruitment process; [281530]

(2) how many *(a)* Protestant, *(b)* Roman Catholic and *(c)* non-determined appointees to the Police Service of Northern Ireland there have been since the inception of the 50/50 recruitment process. [281531]

**Paul Goggins:** That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Police Service of Northern Ireland: Housing

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many residential units owned by *(a)* the Police Authority for Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Prison Service are vacant; and if he will make a statement. [279630]

**Paul Goggins:** There are currently no vacant residential units owned by the Northern Ireland Policing Board. The Northern Ireland Prison Service presently have 25 vacant residential units within the grounds of their training college at Millisle. These will be sold as part of the planned sale of the Millisle site upon the completion of the new public sector college at Desertcreat.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Copyright

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when he expects the internal copyright review to report. [281608]

**Nick Harvey:** I expect this review to be completed by the summer recess.

### Democracy Live

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent representations the House of Commons Commission has received on the forthcoming BBC Democracy Live service; and if the Commission will consider enabling the share facility for videos of proceedings in Parliament. [281606]

**Nick Harvey:** The Commission has not received any representations on the forthcoming BBC Democracy Live service. I understand that the Administration Committee will shortly be considering a proposal to permit the embedding of video content by end users.

## SCOTLAND

### Cabinet: Glasgow

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009; [273945]

(2) what car journeys he took in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273946]

(3) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273947]

(4) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273948]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I was accompanied by one official and one special adviser and undertook one car journey when attending Cabinet in Glasgow on 16 April 2009.

For information in relation to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279492]

**Ann McKechin:** Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many breaches of information security there have been in his Department in the last five years. [281094]

**Ann McKechin:** There have been no breaches of information security at the Scotland Office in the last five years.

The Office would report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the ICO. Information on any personal data security breaches would be published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 273945, *(b)* 273946, *(c)* 273947 and *(d)* 273948 tabled on 5 May 2009 on the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow. [281413]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** These parliamentary questions were answered today.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bees

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to appoint an expert in beekeeping and honey bee health to the funding committee for the Living with Environmental Change programme. [281188]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* DEFRA and other funders are currently considering whether an independent expert should be invited to join the panel considering research proposals submitted to the Insect Pollinator Initiative being developed under the Living with Environmental Change programme.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the farming industry of the number of cattle slaughtered as a result of infection with bovine tuberculosis in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2006. [280028]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* The cost impacts of bovine tuberculosis (TB) on farm businesses will vary, though we know that for some farmers these costs will be serious. We have made no specific estimates of the effects of the cost to the farming industry of cattle slaughtered as a result of infection with bovine TB.

The Bovine TB Eradication Group have recently discussed ideas to enable farmers affected by bovine TB to maintain their farm businesses, including enhancing trading opportunities for TB restricted herds and options for support for individual farmers.

### Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research: Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research office in each of the last five years. [280317]

**Dan Norris:** The table provides the requested data. We have included total staff numbers to give an indication of the relative level of management effort, and CEFAS turnover figures to illustrate substantial growth in the volumes of work delivered by the agency over this period. Total staff numbers are average full year figures (as reported in the annual accounts; the detail breakdown reflects the position at financial year end).

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total staff | 523 | 508 | 520 | 508 | 522 |
| Turnover (£ million) | 37.4 | 40.4 | 43.3 | 47.5 | 57.1 |
| Directors | 7 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 3 |
| Senior managers | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| Specialist and delivery managers | 332 | 326 | 333 | 352 | 343 |
| Executive support and admin. | 120 | 115 | 112 | 93 | 65 |

*Notes:*
1. Directors are executive members of the CEFAS management board.
2. Senior managers lead operational management across the organisation, and form part of the CEFAS "Senior Management Team".
3. Specialist and delivery managers: have an extensive proportion of their time focused on managing/delivering customer projects and are typically professionally qualified. This is an estimated figure based on staff grade.
4. Executive support and administration: provide the "corporate services" function for CEFAS.

### Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research: Pay

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research in each of the last five years. [280321]

**Dan Norris:** The table provides the requested data. Figures for 2008-09 have not yet been finalised.

The CEFAS "performance related pay" (PRP) scheme has varied in recent years. It comprises a "corporate bonus" payable to all eligible staff as well as an "individual PRP" for a smaller proportion. The table shows percentage corporate and values of individual PRP estimated. The current scheme allows for:

A corporate bonus for all eligible staff of 2.2 per cent. of salary, explicitly linked to achievement of agreed agency targets

A corporate "growth" bonus for all eligible staff of up to 1.3 per cent. of salary self-funded and explicitly linked to generation of additional income from sources other than DEFRA.

An "individual PRP" paid at two levels, 4 per cent. or 8 per cent., for approximately 25 and 15 per cent. of staff respectively. This is assessed on the basis of achievement of personal objectives together with consideration of how these were delivered, the latter taking account of CEFAS values.

Bonus arrangements for four senior civil servants in CEFAS, including the chief executive, form part of wider DEFRA arrangements.

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| "Corporate bonus" (percentage) | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | — |
| *Individual PRP (£):* | | | | | |
| Directors | 22,780 | 9,860 | 19,512 | 20,860 | — |
| Senior managers | 5,680 | 3,180 | 2,833 | 2,447 | — |
| Specialist and delivery managers | 136,483 | 73,502 | 88,184 | 92,462 | — |
| Executive support and admin. | 42,442 | 28,639 | 29,196 | 21,624 | — |

## Common Agricultural Policy

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse of the Common Agricultural Policy integrated administration and control system was in each of the last five years. [278673]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) under the Common Agricultural Policy provides the system for managing direct payments to farmers (such as the Single Payment Scheme), and those rural development measures which are based on the area farmed or number of animals held by the farmer (such as agri-environment payments and Less Favoured Area payments). The Rural Payments Agency (RPA), Natural England and the Forestry Commission all administer IACS-related schemes in England.

It is not possible to provide the specific costs to these bodies of administering IACS-only schemes in the time available without incurring disproportionate costs, as they do not separately collect such figures.

The table sets out indicative costs to these organisations as follows:

(a) RPA: total running costs for administering around 60 CAP schemes and for Trader schemes payments to traders throughout the UK as well as all its non-CAP functions such as livestock tracing.

(b) Forestry Commission: administration of their 'land-based' IACS grant schemes, the English Woodland Grant Scheme together with the legacy Woodland Grant Scheme and Farm Woodland (Premium) Schemes.

(c) Natural England: administration of their RDPE schemes, including agri-environment schemes which are subject to IACS controls.

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *RPA*[1] | *Forestry Commission*[2] | *Natural England*[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 249.1 | 4.2 | n/a |
| 2005-06 | 236.5 | 4.2 | n/a |
| 2006-07 | 229.8 | 4.2 | n/a |
| 2007-08 | 242.8 | 5.0 | [4]44 |
| 2008-09 | [5]— | 5.0 | [4]38.8 |

[1] Taken from the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts.
[2] Net administration costs
[3] Natural England was formed in October 2006. Costs for its predecessor bodies are not available.
[4] Includes direct costs incurred by Natural England of £13.6 million, and costs of using DEFRA systems (including depreciation and support/running costs).
[5] Not yet available.

## Dairy Farmers of Britain: Insolvency

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* farmers and *(b)* farm businesses which are at risk of entering administration as a result of Dairy Farmers of Britain being taken into receivership. [281356]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Dairy Farmers of Britain had 1,800 members when they went into receivership on 3 June. The vast majority of those members have succeeded in finding new outlets for their milk. We were informed by the receivers (PwC) at a meeting on 17 June that 190 members have yet to find a new buyer, so PwC are collecting their milk at present.

## Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279507]

**Dan Norris:** The core-Department's financial system records expenditure in 2008-09 with Demos of £922.87 categorised as Training in People Management Skills.

## Departmental Billing

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average number of days taken to pay an invoice by *(a)* his

Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies was in each month since November 2008. [279526]

**Dan Norris** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* Following the statement by the Prime Minister at PMQs on 8 October 2008, central Government Departments were asked to make payment of SME supplier invoices within 10 days. From information held centrally the 10 day payment performance for all supplier invoices from November 2008 for the core-Department and Executive agencies and NDPBs that utilise core-DEFRA's financial system is as follows:

*Percentage*

| | *10 day performance* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2008* | | *2009* | | | | |
| *Organisation* | *November* | *December* | *January* | *February* | *March* | *April* | *May* |
| Core DEFRA | 33.5 | 77.1 | 99.8 | 99.8 | 99.4 | 99.7 | 99.9 |
| Animal Health Agency | 25.5 | 74.6 | 99.9 | 100.0 | 99.9 | 99.9 | 100.0 |
| Natural England | 99.5 | 99.4 | 99.5 | 99.6 | 99.9 | 99.8 | 99.7 |
| Marine and Fisheries Agency | 41.6 | 84.6 | 100.0 | 96.3 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.5 |
| Gov. Decon. Service | 35.7 | 67.3 | 100.0 | 99.5 | 100.0 | — | — |
| DECC cost centres | 28.1 | 81.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.5 | 100.0 |

*Note:*
GDS merged into FERA from 1 April 2009.

## Departmental Official Hospitality

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on hospitality in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [277871]

**Dan Norris** *[holding answer 3 June 2009]:* From information held centrally, the core-Department's financial system records expenditure on hospitality in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 of £441,259 and £132,414 respectively.

## Departmental Press

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279426]

**Dan Norris:** For the period October 2008 to June 2009, DEFRA Ministers had the following newspapers and periodicals delivered to their offices:

*Hilary Benn*

*Newspapers*

*Financial Times*
*Times*
*Daily Telegraph*
*Guardian*
*Independent*
*Daily Mail*
*Mirror*
*International Herald Tribune*
*Evening Standard*

*Periodicals*

*Farmers Weekly*
*Spectator*
*New Statesman*
*Economist*
*New Scientist*

*Jane Kennedy*

*Newspapers*

*Financial Times*
*Times*
*Daily Telegraph*
*Guardian*
*Independent*
*Daily Mail*

*Periodicals*

*Farmers Weekly*
*Farmers Guardian*
*Fishing News*

*Lord Hunt*

*Newspapers*

*Guardian*
*Independent*

*Periodicals*

*Farmers Weekly*
*Farmers Guardian*

*Huw Irranca-Davies*

*Newspapers*

*Times*
*Daily Telegraph*
*Guardian*
*The Sun*
*Daily Mail*
*Mirror*
*Evening Standard*

*Periodicals*

*Farmers Weekly*

Newspapers were, and continue to be, only delivered Monday-Thursday, with no papers or magazines being delivered through recess periods. Costs for these publications are grouped within a single departmental invoice, so an indicative weekly cost (based on the cover price of each publication) is £109.70, with zero cost during recess periods.

## Entec

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each contract his Department has with Entec UK environmental consultants. [280352]

**Dan Norris:** The core-Department's financial system records the following expenditure categorisation and values with Entec UK in 2008-09.

| *Description* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|
| Environmental Protection Research and Monitoring | 70,254 |
| England Biodiversity Strategy | 15,640 |
| Flood and Coastal Defence Research Programme | 222,612 |
| Marine Environment Research Programme | 7,504 |
| Water Quality and Water Supply Regulation R and D | 5,800 |
| Sustainable Water Use and Technical Support | 13,444 |
| Air Quality Evidence Base Management | 178,033 |
| Sustainable Development Commission Policy | 46,070 |

## Floods

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department plans to publish its next progress report on implementation of the urgent recommendations of the Pitt report on flooding. [281649]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In line with our commitment, the Government will very shortly publish its six-monthly Pitt progress report.

## Floods: Bournemouth

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans there are to improve sea defences at Hengistbury Head in Bournemouth. [280910]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* The plans to improve defences at Hengistbury Head will be based on the current policy review for the local Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). This is being led by Bournemouth borough council and is approaching a public consultation stage. The SMP will be adopted later this year and published in June 2010.

Within the SMP the Environment Agency is reviewing the coastal processes and associated risks at Hengistbury Head. Once the SMP policies are determined and published, the Environment Agency has plans to develop a programme to re-evaluate its approach to improve the coastal defences for Poole Bay, including Hengistbury Head.

## Floods: Property Development

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of local planning authorities have granted planning permission for a development against an Environment Agency flood risk objection in each of the last five years; [279436]

(2) what proportion of planning applications have been granted against Environment Agency advice on flood risk in each of the last five years. [279446]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answers 12 and 15 June 2009]:* The following table shows the proportion of local planning authorities (LPAs) who have given planning permission for a development against an Environment Agency flood risk objection.

*Proportion of LPAs who made decisions against Environment Agency advice*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 29.9 |
| 2004-05 | 35.8 |
| 2005-06 | 26.1 |
| 2006-07 | 21.4 |
| 2007-08 | 23.5 |

The following table shows the proportion of planning applications that were approved against Environment Agency advice on flood risk.

*Proportion of decisions against Environment Agency advice*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 11.5 |
| 2004-05 | 8.1 |
| 2005-06 | 4.7 |
| 2006-07 | 4.0 |
| 2007-08 | 3.4 |

## Food: Prices

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the provisions of the Common Agricultural Policy on food prices in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [277099]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The principal market provisions of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)—Market Price Support (MPS) and the use of tariffs—artificially raise the price of food above global agricultural market prices.

We can calculate an estimate of the UK consumer cost of the Common Agricultural Policy by comparing the difference between UK and world prices for agricultural products and applying the difference to the volume of UK consumption. On that basis our latest estimates suggest that the UK consumer cost of the CAP was approximately £3.48 billion in 2006. This works out as an additional cost per head of UK population of £57.

## Great Crested Newts

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of people qualified to survey land in England for signs of great crested newt activity. [280861]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** People with suitable experience and skills can apply to Natural England for a licence to

handle/disturb great crested newts. For the year April 2007 to March 2008, Natural England issued 1,074 great crested newt licences, permitting activities for the purpose of science and conservation. Figures cannot be broken down further to indicate how many of these licence holders were engaged in surveying land for signs of great crested newt activity.

### Horses: Animal Welfare

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment he has made of the standard of the welfare of *(a)* horses and *(b)* racehorses; and if he will make a statement; [278285]

(2) if he will undertake an assessment of the welfare of racehorses, including levels of death and injury; and if he will bring forward proposals to improve their welfare. [278286]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer given 9 June 2009]:* All kept horses are protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 ("the Act") which requires owners and keepers to provide for the welfare needs of their animals.

To make owners and keepers more aware of their responsibilities under the Act, DEFRA is preparing a code of practice for the care of horses, ponies, donkeys and their hybrids. Once this is finalised it will be approved by Parliament before being published.

There are no proposals to undertake a welfare assessment of racehorses. Racehorses are protected by the Act which makes it an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to an animal. In addition, under the Act, it is an offence to fail to provide for the welfare needs of an animal for which owners are responsible.

Anyone can take forward a prosecution under the Act if they consider they have evidence of cruelty or poor welfare, or they can report it to the appropriate authorities, including the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

### Horticulture

**Mrs. Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department plans to take to support research and development in the production horticulture sector to maintain the UK's competitiveness in this sector; [279476]

(2) what funding his Department has allocated to production horticulture research and development in the last five years; [279477]

(3) if he will match-fund the Horticultural Development Company levy for horticulture research and development. [279478]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA funds a significant amount of horticultural research through research programmes on Sustainable Farm Management, Agriculture and Climate Change, Resource Efficient and Resilient Food Chain and Sustainable Water Management. DEFRA plans to continue supporting the horticultural sector through these programmes with research in areas including crop protection, nutrient management, water use and crop genetic improvement for horticulture. The Horticulture LINK research programme is jointly funded with industry and so is able to translate Research & Development into a commercial reality.

DEFRA spent over £7 million on horticulture research in 2008-09. We spent £1.35 million in 2007-08 and again in 2008-09 directly on co-funded research with industry. We are likely to spend a similar amount this financial year. This exceeds the Horticulture Development Company's Research & Development expenditure.

### Incinerators

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what auditing of the records of incinerator operators the Environment Agency undertakes to establish compliance with the law in relation to H14 ecotoxicity testing of incinerator bottom ash prior to its disposal. [278403]

**Dan Norris** *[holding answer 9 June 2009]:* Hazardous waste legislation requires that the bottom ash arising from municipal waste incinerators is assessed for ecotoxicity (property H14) prior to disposal. The legislation does not require operators to submit the results to the Environment Agency.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 31 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on his constituents in Macduff. [280794]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

As the letter concerned policy within BIS's remit I answered the right hon. Member's letter on 20 April 2009 and will send an additional copy to his office.

### Pesticides Safety Directorate: Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Pesticides Safety Directorate office in each of the last five years. [280607]

**Dan Norris:** In the last five financial years from 2004-05 to 2008-09 the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) was based in a single office in York.

Permanent staff in post expressed as full time equivalents (FTE) at 31 March in each year were:

*Number*

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Directors[1] | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| *(b)* Senior Managers[2] | 15 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 13 |
| *(c)* Specialist and delivery managers[3] | 135.9 | 137.3 | 126.4 | 123.2 | 124.8 |

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | Number 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(d)* Executive support and admin staff[4] | 43.9 | 42.8 | 36.7 | 33 | 20.3 |
| Total | 198.8 | 199.1 | 182.1 | 174.2 | 162.1 |

[1] Defined here as staff at Senior Civil Service or Grade 6 level.
[2] Defined here as staff at Grade 7 level (includes managers in policy, science, technical and administrative areas).
[3] Defined here as all staff in grades Executive/Scientific Officer to Senior Executive/Scientific Officer.
[4] Defined here as all staff in grades Administrative Officer and Administrative Assistant.
*Note:*
PSD transferred to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 1 April 2008, and merged with other HSE teams to form the Chemicals Regulation Directorate on 1 April 2009.

### River Humber

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the eutrophication status of the Humber estuary is; and if he will make a statement. [280778]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Environment Agency, which surveys waters in England for their eutrophic status, does not consider the Humber to be eutrophic or likely to become eutrophic in the near future.

### Seas and Oceans: Pollution

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what occasions monitoring of *(a)* fish stocks and *(b)* other marine wildlife has been instigated following the loss of a harmful cargo into the sea in UK waters since 1985; and what the (i) nature of the cargo, (ii) period of monitoring and (iii) results of that monitoring were in each case. [281611]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The role of DEFRA and the Marine and Fisheries Agency in responding to marine pollution emergencies is described in the National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations, which is maintained by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Responses to maritime incidents need to be proportionate. Regional or national responses to maritime incidents involve the establishment of an Environment Group, which advises on environmental impacts and may initiate the collection of real time environmental data. If a marine pollution incident is expected to have a significant impact on the marine environment or the shoreline, arrangements are made to monitor and assess the impact in the longer term.

On 20 January 2007, the MSC Napoli was beached in Lyme Bay. The vessel was loaded with 2,318 containers (159 of which were classified as 'International Maritime Dangerous Goods') and approximately 3,500 tonnes of Intermediate Fuel Oil and 152 tonnes of Marine Diesel Oil on board. It is estimated that approximately 302 tonnes of oil leaked out of the vessel and dispersant was used to disperse the oil. The proportion of containers that went overboard and the proportion of oil spilled was relatively small. The Environment Agency augmented their routine water quality monitoring programme both by adding additional stations to improve the data coverage and by implementing a screening procedure for chemicals in the water. In addition, DEFRA funded the Plymouth Marine Laboratory to undertake a survey of the waters across Lyme Bay to assess the levels of hydrocarbon contamination in subsurface waters and the surface microlayer. CEFAS and the Marine and Fisheries Agency also instigated a programme of sampling commercial shellfish (crabs, scallops and mussels). Natural England organised necropsies of a proportion of the oiled seabirds and organised two benthic surveys looking at the effect on the benthos (including the pink sea fans). Apart from the birds that died there has been no measured long term effect on the marine environment. Full details can be found at:

www.mfa.gov.uk/environment/oil/mscnapoli.htm

On 1 February 2006, the MV Ece, laden with 10,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid, sank following a collision with another vessel approximately 30 miles northwest of Guernsey. Phosphoric acid (phosphate) is an essential nutrient for phytoplankton (microscopic marine algae on which the entire marine food chain relies). Release of "additional" phosphate into the sea may intensify blooms of toxic phytoplankton species and/or lead to oxygen loss from the seawater, both of which are lethal to marine organisms. As there was the possibility of a potential spill from the vessel, a research study was carried out to evaluate the "Ferrybox" as an appropriate monitoring system for the marine environment using the wreck of the MV Ece as a test case. One of the samples taken contained a concentration higher than background levels, demonstrating that this system of monitoring was capable of identifying phosphate leakage from the wreck. Full details of the report can be found at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document:= ME3208_3714_FRP.pdf

On 3 September 2005, MV Anglian Sovereign (Coastguard ETV) hit rocks close to the entrance to Scalloway Harbour in Shetland. It had 84 tonnes of gas oil on board plus the usual hydraulic and lubricating oils. A good deal of oil was lost to the sea but much of the rest was recovered by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency response. Monitoring was undertaken for a number of months when it was found that farmed salmon and wild shellfish in the area was contaminated.

On 29 June 2003, the Jambo, carrying 3,300 tonnes of sphalerite ore ran aground on rocks off the Summer Isles North West of Ullapool. Sphalerite is mainly composed of zinc sulphide and contains traces of other metals such as lead, cadmium and arsenic. Monitoring included testing water, sediments and shellfish for zinc, toxicity testing and measuring the solubility of metallic elements in the sphalerite ore. It showed that measured levels of zinc in the water were mostly very low. Toxic impacts of zinc to water column animals are therefore considered very unlikely. Measured levels of zinc in sediments are very low except in the immediate vicinity of the wreck (-100 metres) so toxic and smothering impacts to benthic (seabed) animals are therefore expected to be similarly localised. There is no evidence to suggest

that the discharged cargo from the Jambo has resulted in persistent elevated levels of zinc, cadmium or arsenic in scallop or crab tissues. It is concluded that eating shellfish from the area around the Jambo incident does not raise any food safety concerns for consumers. The final report of the Jambo Environment Group to the Secretary of State's representative was published in July 2004 and can be obtained from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency at:

http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/environment_group_report-5.pdf

On 31 October 2000, the levoli Sun was abandoned and later sunk approximately 11 miles North West of Alderney. The vessel carried a mixed cargo of 4,000 tonnes styrene, 1,000 tonnes methyl ethyl ketone and 1,000 tonnes isopropyl alcohol. More than 1,000 tonnes styrene was lost to sea during the incident. Analysis of edible tissues from crabs recovered one week later from pots laid very close to the wreck prior to the incident demonstrated only low-level styrene contamination that posed no risk to humans. The remainder of the styrene and the ship's main bunker fuel were recovered from the wreck on the seabed. Full details are provided in R.J. Law, C. Kelly, P. Matthiessen and J. Aldridge (2003) The loss of the chemical tanker levoli Sun in the English Channel, October 2000. Marine Pollution Bulletin, 46: 254-257.

In February 1996 the Sea Empress ran aground in the entrance to Milford Haven releasing more than 72,000 tonnes of oil. Monitoring of affected wildlife began almost immediately and was mostly completed by 1998[1]. Some studies continued in subsequent years and a number of reports and scientific papers have been published in the 10 years following the spill. The long term effects of the spill were evaluated in a report published in 2006[2]. In addition, a review of the ecological effects of the clean up following the spill was published in 2006[3]. The studies found that almost all known impacts to marine wildlife and marine and coastal habitats from the Sea Empress oil spill had disappeared within five years.

On 5 January 1993, MV Braer, an oil tanker, ran aground at the southern tip of Shetland, releasing around 85,000 tonnes of oil. Monitoring began immediately and monitoring for some direct effects continued for around a year. Background monitoring that could be used to assess some effects started in the 1970s and have continued to the present. In general, very few effects other than immediate ones were found, probably due to light and easily dispersible nature of the oil spilled[4,5]. It took one species of seabird one to five years to recover to pre-spill levels[6], and others may have taken longer.

[1] SEEEC, 1998. The Environmental Impact of the Sea Empress Oil Spill. Final Report of the Sea Empress Environmental Evaluation Committee. London: The Stationery Office. ISBN: 0 11 702156 3.

http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/seeec/impact/seaemp.htm

[2] Moore, J.J. 2006. State of the Marine Environment in South West Wales, 10 years after the Sea Empress Oil Spill. A report to the Countryside Council for Wales from Coastal Assessment, Liaison and Monitoring, Cosheston, Pembrokeshire. CCW Monitoring report No 21. 30pp.

[3] Little, A.E., Moore, J.J. and Dyrynda P.E.J. 2006. Ecological Impacts of Shoreline Clean-up during the Sea Empress Oil Spill. A Report to the Countryside Council for Wales by Cordah Ltd. 131pp.

[4] Ritchie, W. And O'Sullivan, M (eds.) 1994. The Environmental impact of the wreck of the Braer. Scottish Office, Edinburgh. 207pp.

[5] Davies, J.M. and Topping, G. (eds) 1997. The impact of an oil spill in turbulent waters: the Braer. Scottish Office, Edinburgh.

[6] Heubeck, M. 2000. Population trends of kittiwake Rissa tridactyla, black guillemot Cepphus grylle and common guillemot Uria aalge. Atlantic Seabirds 1: 43-47.

### Waste Disposal: Newcastle upon Tyne

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with Newcastle City Council on its decision not to pursue the incineration option for its disposal of waste. [281428]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA Ministers have had no such discussions. The choice of waste management technology for Newcastle is a matter for the city council.

## TRANSPORT

### Air Passenger Duty

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the proposed Air Passenger Duty charges on the number of passengers travelling on each Air Passenger Duty band. [280134]

**Paul Clark:** A sensitivity test for the proposed new Air Passenger Duty (APD) bands and rates was included in the Department for Transport's "UK Air Passenger Demand and $C0_2$ Forecasts" report, published in January 2009. The report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/

Table 2.12 (page 48) reports the effect of this sensitivity test (rounded to the nearest five million passengers).

The breakdown of the change in 2030 demand from moving to the new APD bands and rates is shown in the following table.

*Change in 2030 forecast from central case*

| *New APD band* | *Passengers (million)* |
|---|---|
| Band A | -1.4 |
| Band B | 0.0 |
| Band C | 0.0 |
| Band D | 0.0 |
| APD exempt | -0.1 |
| Total | -1.5 |

*Notes:*
Results are rounded to nearest 0.1 million passengers. Difference in total impact from that reported in "UK Air Passenger Demand and $C0_2$ Forecasts" January 2009, is due to differences in rounding.

As explained in "UK Air Passenger Demand and $C0_2$ Forecasts", January 2009, paragraphs 2.28 to 2.29 (page 21), the Department's central demand forecasts assume that aviation will meet its climate change costs. It is assumed these will be met by APD, plus an additional cost equal to the difference between APD and aviation's climate change costs per passenger journey (if positive). This assumption reduces the impact of changes to APD on the demand forecasts.

No assessment of the impact of the proposed new APD bands and rates without this assumption is available.

### Aviation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many passes to his Department have been issued to employees of *(a)* BAA, *(b)* British Airways, *(c)* Virgin and *(d)* other airlines in each of the last five years. [279121]

**Chris Mole:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Bus Services

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the supply and demand of local bus services. [280735]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport (DfT) has recently commissioned a number of research projects on buses which are relevant to the supply and demand of local bus services.

A recently commissioned project on the determinants of bus patronage focuses on the importance of softer factors in influencing patronage growth and modal shift. We are expecting this work to be published by autumn 2009.

On concessionary travel, the Department has commissioned research which focuses on the impact of concessionary travel on demand for local bus services and costs, though the work will also cover general bus demand and bus costs. We are expecting this work to be published by the end of 2009.

On bus modelling, the Department has commissioned the development of a bus model which is able to forecast bus patronage changes and bus service levels for different types of interventions. A completed bus model is expected by autumn 2009.

It is intended that DfT's most recent regional and local research strategy is published this summer, which will provide details on local and regional transport research.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279491]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has no contracts with Demos.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280963]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport reports its carbon dioxide emissions from offices figures through the annual Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report. The figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

*Carbon dioxide from offices*

| | *Total* | *Tonnes Per FTE*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 24,326 | 1.239 |
| 2007-08 | 26,098 | 1.395 |

[1] FTE stands for 'full time equivalent' (member of staff).

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many departmental identity cards or passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies since July 2008. [279414]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport is comprised of the central Department, a Shared Service Centre and seven Executive agencies. The information available regarding identity cards or passes reported lost or stolen since July 2008 is as follows:

For the central Department the number of staff passes reported as replaced is 431. The records available do not distinguish between passes replaced due to loss or theft and those replaced for other reasons. Lost or stolen passes are estimated to account for approximately 45 per cent. of all replacement passes issued.

For the Department's Shared Service centre the number of staff passes reported as lost or stolen is five.

For the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency the number of staff passes reported as lost or stolen is 70.

For the Highways Agency the number of staff passes reported as lost or stolen is 35.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency have no record of passes reported as lost or stolen.

The Vehicle Certification Agency have reported three staff passes as lost.

The Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA) reported seven warrant cards as lost or stolen. In addition it reported that two headquarters building passes were reported lost and two were replaced but the reason was not recorded. VOSA does not centrally record staff building passes reported lost or stolen as each building manager handles requests for replacements on an individual basis. The number for passes lost or stolen for the whole agency could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The Driving Standards Agency has had 13 permanent staff passes reported as lost or stolen. In the same period, two driving examiner warrant cards were reported as lost or stolen.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency do not centrally record the number of staff passes reported as lost or stolen as cases are dealt with individually and not recorded in an aggregated form. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280522]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport gas and electricity consumption figures are as follows:

| *Area* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *kWh 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Electricity* | | | | |
| Central Department | 8,073,203 | 9,189,266 | 8,039,848 | 7,522,567 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 3,397,953 | 3,967,843 | 4,337,092 | 3,555,589 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 14,698,167 | 14,106,404 | 15,658,681 | 16,460,063 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | — | 757,036 | 831,151 | 821,805 |
| Highways Agency | 4,092,816 | 3,615,533 | 3,602,937 | 4,393,721 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 5,708,513 | 6,901,183 | 6,831,677 | 5,813,369 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 65,069 | 153,608 | 136,804 | 200,423 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 7,194,512 | 6,640,513 | 6,914,649 | 6,992,162 |
| Total | 43,230,233 | 45,331,386 | 46,352,839 | 45,759,699 |
| *Gas* | | | | |
| Area | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
| Central Department | 1,183,339 | 1,743,451 | 893,005 | 970,130 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 2,836,153 | 7,135,920 | 3,942,059 | 3,095,886 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 14,665,348 | 28,442,576 | 26,254,520 | 31,470,328 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | — | 733,428 | 638,352 | 1,909,513 |
| Highways Agency | 618,204 | 2,170,079 | 1,769,332 | 2,049,947 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 3,283,979 | 4,308,427 | 3,508,140 | 2,796,924 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 119,626 | 130,536 | 109,035 | 90,245 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 6,850,996 | 5,427,891 | 5,652,612 | 6,882,232 |
| Total | 31,357,645 | 50,092,308 | 42,767,055 | 49,265,205 |

There are no figures reported for the Government Car and Despatch Agency for 2004-05 as they did not become part of the Department for Transport until 2005-06.

The figures for 2008-09 are not yet available as they are currently being collated for the latest Sustainable Development in Government report.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280545]

**Chris Mole:** It is not possible to provide spend data on energy efficiency measures undertaken by the Department for Transport as the majority of these works were part of larger building projects and were not costed separately. The following is a list of some of the energy efficiency measures that have been carried out at various sites across the Department for Transport estate:

Carbon Management Energy Efficiency Report;

Installation of Savawatt controllers;

Improved lighting control systems;

Installation of double glazing;

Reducing the operating temperatures of heating and cooling systems;

"Switch off" campaigns;

Installation of thermal blinds;

Smart metering and sub-metering programmes;

Upgrades to Building management Systems to reduce energy consumption;

Replacement of boilers with improved energy efficiency ratings;

Improvements to air handling units to improve efficiency;

Automatic PC shutdown at designated time.

The Department reports its energy figures annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government report and monitors its sustainability data quarterly. As part of the Carbon Management Energy Efficiency report mentioned above the Department reports periodically to the Carbon Trust the savings, in terms of emissions and cost that have been achieved as a result of the measures implemented from the report.

Energy efficiency measures for the future include:

Benchmarking of some sites to determine where efficiencies are required and to allow assessment of the effectiveness of energy efficiency installations;

Further installation of Smart meters and sub-metering;

Installation of new more energy efficient lifts;

Implementation of a "thin client" IT solution;

Participation in the Carbon reduction Commitment;

Achievement of the Carbon Trust Standard;

Adoption of BREEAM Excellent or Very Good ratings for all new build and major refurbishments;

Working towards achievement of an accredited EMS in all departmental organisations;

Full utilisation of a second CHP plant at our Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency site at Morrison.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280557]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport has, in addition to the central Department, seven executive agencies that report performance under the Sustainable Operation on the Government Estate targets. Those agencies account for in excess of 85 per cent. of the entire departmental estate. The chief executive of each agency is therefore responsible for the energy efficiency of their estate, while Richard Hatfield, Director General of International Networks and Environment, is the Board level champion whose role includes the promotion of sustainability across the entire Department for Transport family.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280964]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport reports its energy consumption figures through the annual Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report. The figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

*Energy usage*

| | Total | kWh Per FTE[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 100,104,264 | 5,098 |
| 2007-08 | 99,082,036 | 5,297 |

[1] FTE stands for 'full time equivalent' (member of staff).

**Departmental Public Consultation**

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what consultations have been carried out by his Department since July 2007; and at what cost. [279344]

**Chris Mole:** Details of the Department for Transport's consultations carried out since July 2007 have been placed in the Libraries of the House. Information about the cost of each consultation is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Departmental Waste**

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281010]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport reports its waste arisings figures through the annual Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report. The figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

*Waste arisings*

| | Total | Tonnes Per FTE[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 3,878 | 0.197 |
| 2007-08 | 3,711 | 0.198 |

[1] FTE stands for 'full time equivalent' (member of staff).

**Departmental Water**

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the water consumption on his Department's estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280962]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport reports its water consumption figures through the annual Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report. The scope for water consumption changed from offices only in 2005-06 to the entire estate in 2006-07. As a result of this change in scope, the Department reset its baseline for water consumption. Therefore the water consumption figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are now as follows:

*Water consumption*

| | Total $m^3$ | $m^3$ per FTE[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 174,921 | 10.1 |
| 2006-07 | 205,091 | 10.4 |

[1] Full-time equivalent (member of staff).

The above figures represent the whole estate. To break these figures down to office and non-office data would incur disproportionate costs.

**M25**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of jobs which would be created by *(a)* widening and *(b)* applying hard shoulder running on (i) section 2 and (ii) section 5 of the M25. [279579]

**Chris Mole:** The number of jobs which would be created for these two projects has not been assessed because the schemes have yet to be designed in enough detail to determine the resources required.

**Motor Vehicles: Foreigners**

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to his answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 959W, on motor vehicles: foreigners, what steps his Department takes to enforce compliance with the requirement to re-register foreign-registered cars after six months of using UK roads. [281398]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* The Department for Transport operates a strategy of education, warning and direct enforcement to help compliance with the requirement to re-register foreign vehicles after six months using UK roads. Education activities have involved presentations to community leaders, articles in the media, the issue of information leaflets and warning notices placed on vehicle windscreens. At the point a warning is delivered the vehicle details will be recorded. This allows the length of time a vehicle is likely to have been circulating in the UK to be calculated. If a foreign registered vehicle is believed to have been in the UK for more than six months, the police or local authorities with devolved authority or NSL Ltd. have the power to wheel clamp and impound unlicensed vehicles.

**Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department and its agencies have spent on preparatory work on uncompleted projects for conventional widening of the *(a)* M1, *(b)* M6 and *(c)* M62. [279601]

**Chris Mole:** The cost of preparatory work for uncompleted conventional widening projects on *(a)* the M1 is £47 million *(b)* the M6 is £1.0 million, and *(c)* M62 is £1.6 million.

This includes consultant costs for preliminary design, traffic modelling, aerial surveys, hard shoulder surveys, environmental assessment, air quality measurements and production of model, public exhibitions and consultation with key stakeholders.

Information gathered from a number of these activities remains pertinent to the project irrespective of its mode of delivery and will be utilised wherever possible.

In relation to the M1 this covers three schemes of approximately 104 miles length in total, dating back to July 2003.

### Parking: Disabled

**John Barrett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department issues on the percentage of parking spaces in public car parks to be made available for disabled drivers. [281395]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* The Department for Transport's "Inclusive Mobility" document provides guidance on established best practice on access for disabled people to the pedestrian and transport environment. Section 5 covers car parking and recommends the following spaces for disabled motorists:

(i)For car parks associated with existing employment premises: 2 per cent. of the total car park capacity, with a minimum of one space.

Spaces for disabled employees must be additional to those recommended above; reservations could be ensured, for example, by marking a space with a registration number.

(ii) For car parks associated with new employment premises: 5 per cent. of the total parking capacity should be designated (to include both employees and visitors).

(iii) For car parks associated with shopping areas, leisure or recreational facilities, and places open to the general public: A minimum of one space for each employee who is a disabled motorist, plus 6 per cent. of the total capacity for visiting disabled motorists.

The numbers of designated spaces may need to be greater at hotels and sports stadiums that specialize in accommodating groups of disabled people.

### Railways

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has targets for the proportion of domestic freight and passenger transport made by rail. [281427]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport does not set such targets, but it is Government policy to encourage the development of sustainable passenger and freight transport.

The Department is taking full account of the potential for freight modal shift from road to rail in its ongoing work to consider future investment and other priorities for key national network corridors. It is also an important consideration in the development of the Department's Carbon Reduction Strategy.

### Railways: Electrification

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will assess the likely effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions of electrifying the entire rail network. [280730]

**Chris Mole:** Rail currently emits about 1.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide directly from diesel consumption and is indirectly responsible for about 1.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide produced by the electricity generating sector. Electrifying the rail network would remove carbon emissions associated with diesel consumption, but increase emissions from power stations. The net effect would be a reduction in rail related emissions of about 0.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

### Railways: Finance

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding the Government provided to each train operating company franchise per passenger mile in 2008-09. [281234]

**Chris Mole:** Government spending on the railway for the year ending 31 March 2009 is currently being audited. Subsidy paid along with premiums received from Train Operating Companies for the year 2007-08 is published in National Rail Trends (NRT) which also sets out the amount of subsidy per passenger kilometre. The next National Rail Trends yearbook will be published by the Office of Rail Regulation later in the year and will include the data requested. Copies of the latest version are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Railways: Franchises

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many franchise agreements with train operating companies in force in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 contained revenue support clauses. [280075]

**Chris Mole:** All franchise agreements let from 2003 onwards have revenue support/revenue share clauses in Schedule 8 of the National Rail Franchise Terms. The Train Operating Companies with these provisions are:

Cross Country
East Midland Trains
First Capital Connect
First Great Western
London Midland
London Southeastern Railway
National Express East Anglia
National Express East Coast
Northern Rail
Virgin West Coast.

This list will include the new Southern Franchise when it begins on 20 September 2009.

Full details of revenue support/revenue share can be found on the Department for Transport's website's Public Register of Franchise Agreements:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/

### Reading Station: Repairs and Maintenance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the likely cost of works to Reading station; and how much of this cost will result from the payment of compensation to train operating companies. [278401]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The Reading scheme is a five-year project, with a total value of some £800 million, increasing capacity and improving performance at a key railway junction on the Great Western Main Line.

The whole project is still being finalised by Network Rail and the detailed specification is likely to be agreed with that company in the near future.

Network Rail is aware of the outputs required by Government, in terms of additional capacity and sustained performance, but importantly the need to deliver these within the financial resources determined by the Office of Rail Regulation. The Department for Transport is also working with the railway industry to minimise any adverse impact on the operational railway during the construction phases and the need to make compensation payments to operating companies.

**Roads**

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the capacity of the existing road network for *(a)* car and *(b)* freight usage. [281098]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport published forecasts of traffic and associated congestion, journey times and emissions for the English road network in December 2008. The report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/roadtransportforcasts08/

and copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Roads in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are a matter for the devolved Administrations.

**Roads: Construction**

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the effect of whisper concrete on roads and *(b)* its future use. [280871]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency, an executive agency of the Department for Transport is currently carrying out research on the acoustic performance of quieter surfaces over time. A section of the trunk road network with whisper concrete is included as part of this research. The results of the research and the conclusions are expected to be finalised by early 2010. There is no plan at present for the reintroduction of whisper concrete on the trunk road network.

**Shipping**

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what incidents where *(a)* chemicals and *(b)* radioactive material were lost overboard (i) in UK waters and (ii) elsewhere from UK-registered ships took place in each year since 1985; and what the (A) location, (B) chemicals or materials involved and (C) amount subsequently recovered was in each case; [281612]

(2) on how many occasions *(a)* court actions and *(b)* fines have resulted from incidents where (i) chemicals and (ii) radioactive material have been lost overboard in (A) UK waters and (B) elsewhere from UK-registered ships since 1985; and what (1) type of conviction and (2) level of fine there was in each case in respect of which legal proceedings have been completed. [281613]

**Paul Clark:** Details of incidences of hazardous material (including chemicals) being released from ships in the UK pollution control zone are given in annual reports produced by the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea. Recent reports are available on the website of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

There have been no reported incidences of radioactive material being lost overboard since 1985.

Since 1989 the Department for Transport has sponsored reports on events involving the transport of radioactive material in the UK. These reports will include details of any known incidents where radioactive material was lost during transport by sea. Copies have been placed in the House Libraries and more recent ones are available via the DFT website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/dgt1/road/quidance/guidance/guidance7class/theradiologicalimpactofthetr1178

**Southern: Railway Stations**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what definition of station deep cleans is stipulated in the South Central franchise. [280379]

**Chris Mole:** Within the London area, the station deep clean specification was agreed by the Department for Transport and Transport for London before the franchise specification was published in November 2008. Bidders were obliged to meet these minimum standards as part of their bid which will be assessed via a Mystery Shopping Exercise to be conducted by Transport for London. The specification covers all areas of the station that are under the control of the train operator. This specification will be published alongside the other various franchise documents once commercial elements of the agreement have been discussed with the train operator.

Outside London, the bidder offered a station deep clean package, which was not a requirement of our specification. The exact specification of this programme will be agreed between the Department and GoVia, the winning bidder in the next few months.

**Southern: Standards**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* enhancements and *(b)* investments stipulated in the South Central franchise were stipulated as part of the 2007 High Level Output Statement. [280384]

**Chris Mole:** The High Level Output Specification specifies increased levels of demand that must be accommodated on the network. In the case of South Central this relates to London Victoria and London Bridge. The South Central invitation to tender set out a minimum increase in vehicle arrivals at the London terminals (morning peak) and departures (evening peak) that make use of the lengthened platforms that Network Rail will provide.

Overall the invitation to tender required a 10 per cent. increase in morning peak capacity. The winning bidder exceeds this requirement, with a 14 per cent. increase in morning peak capacity by December 2013.

**Transport**

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* reviewed on (i) the efficacy of local transport plans and (ii) other methods for improving transport services and infrastructure at (A) local and (B) regional level. [280734]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport (DfT) commissioned a long-term process and impact evaluation of the Local Transport Plan policy following its introduction in the 1998 Transport White Paper. The research project ran from December 2001 to April 2007—the final report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/research/

The research identified that the Government's approach to local transport planning and delivery since the White Paper had been successful and represented value for money in terms of the investment made.

The Department commissions a wide range of other research to help improve transport services and infrastructure at a local and regional level. Examples include research recently commissioned on programme and risk management for local authorities; research on the importance of "soft factors" in delivering bus passenger growth and modal shift from cars, and a study on how local authorities access information on best practice. It is intended that DfT's most recent regional and local research strategy is published this summer, which will provide details on local and regional transport research.

### Transport: Devon

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the average number of journeys per day by each mode of transport between London and *(a)* the Torbay area, *(b)* the South Devon area and *(c)* Devon. [280731]

**Mr. Khan:** The requested information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## JUSTICE

### Probation : Manpower

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to recruit new staff to monitor the new monthly targets for the London Probation Service. [280502]

**Maria Eagle:** This will be undertaken using existing resources both within London probation and the London director of offender management's team.

### Crimes of Violence: Reoffenders

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 954-55W, on crimes of violence: reoffenders, what the conviction rate was for persons charged with murder who were notified to the National Offender Management Service in each year since 2006-07. [280837]

**Mr. Straw:** Further to my answer of 11 June 2009, the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, published on 30 October 2008 record that, for 2006-7, 74 offenders who were under the supervision of the Probation Service were convicted of murder, and for 2007-8, 47. These figures, together with those provided in my earlier answer, show that, at the time OMCS 2007 was published, murder convictions as a proportion of serious further offence notifications for murder were 57 per cent. for 2006-7 and 4 per cent. for 2007-8. However, at the time of publication, not all cases had gone to trial.

The Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008, which are scheduled for publication on 31 July 2009, will contain serious further offence convictions and other outcomes for 2008-9 and updated figures for 2007-8.

### Crimes of Violence: Sentencing

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average a person in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point convicted of (i) grievous bodily harm and (ii) violent disorder was sentenced to serve in custody in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [280599]

**Claire Ward:** The data provided in the following table show the average custodial sentence length (ACSL) for offenders in the Essex police area force, for grievous bodily harm and violent disorder. Data are not available for Castle Point. The data are for the offences of grievous bodily harm or violent disorder where such an offence was the principal offence for which the offender was sentenced. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

*Average custodial sentence length[1] (months) for grievous bodily harm and violent disorder, Essex police force area, 2007*

| | *Number/months* |
|---|---|
| Number of immediate custodial sentences—grievous bodily harm[2] | 73 |
| Average custodial sentence length | 27.0 |
| Number of immediate custodial sentences—violent disorder[3] | 0 |
| Average custodial sentence length | [4] |

[1] Excludes indeterminate and life sentences.
[2] Offences of: wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm; causing explosion or casting corrosive fluids with intent to do grievous bodily harm; malicious wounding; racially aggravated malicious wounding or GBH; religiously aggravated wounding or GBH, racially or religiously aggravated wounding or GBH.
[3] Public Order Act 1986.
[4] Not applicable.

*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

### Debt Collection: Fees and Charges

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the appropriateness level of costs charged by bailiffs in the execution of duties ordered by *(a)* the courts and *(b)* local authorities. [281112]

**Bridget Prentice:** The current fee system for enforcement agents is complex, each enforcement power bringing with it a different fee structure. The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act (the Act) 2007 will introduce a unified fee regime, which will ensure that bailiffs are adequately and fairly remunerated for the work they actually do. We are assessing the current level of costs for all the different debt types to inform the new fee structure which includes the courts and local authorities.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [252369]

**Mr. Wills:** The amount spent by the Ministry of Justice in the last 12 months on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers is £279,235.00.

Of this amount £104,656.00 related to interior works (including partition work, ceilings, doors, ironmongery, redecorations, floor finishes and mechanical); £128,868.00 related to associated electrical work; £1,445.00 for other minor adjustments and £44,266.00 related to fees.

The incremental costs include works directly attributable to the formation of the Ministry of Justice. Specifically, the appointment of a fifth junior Minister and the creation of an appropriate secure environment for the Secretary of State and his security advisers.

The timing of these decisions required the works to be undertaken subsequent to the initial planned building refurbishment.

### Departmental Electricity

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280925]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007, this answer gives the figure for 2007-08. The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide the percentage of electricity derived from renewable sources for 2006-07 without incurring disproportionate costs.

The estimate made of the percentage of electricity derived from renewable sources used by the Ministry of Justice in 2007-08 was 8 per cent.

### Departmental Energy

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280924]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007, this answer gives the figure for 2007-08. The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide the energy consumed for 2006-07 without incurring disproportionate costs.

The energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in 2007-08 was 17,996 kWh based upon total energy consumption of 1,680,602,541 kWh and 93,385 FTEs (includes MoJ core estate plus executive agencies). Please note that the total energy consumption figure includes energy consumed by prisoners within HM Prison Service and visitors within HM Courts Service.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent upgrading its IT in 2008-09. [276430]

**Mr. Straw:** Details of significant expenditure incurred on upgrading IT in the 2008-09 financial year are as follows:

The Criminal Justice System Exchange infrastructure—expenditure for 2008-09 was £6.7 million.

The NOMIS Programme to upgrade IT across the National Offender Management Service is providing Her Majesty's Prison Service and national probation service staff with improved access to information to support end-to-end offender management processes. Expenditure for 2008-09 was £91 million, which included the main costs of developing and implementing new applications, infrastructure costs and supporting the live services.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice's other main IT services are provided through contracts with external suppliers. These contracts include provision for regular maintenance and upgrade of the infrastructures and applications to keep systems up to date and to improve business efficiency. The costs of upgrades are included in the overall contract expenditure and could not be identified separately without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275250]

**Mr. Straw:** The information requested is as follows.

*Staff on core Ministry of Justice terms and conditions (including HMCS, Tribunals Service and MoJ HQ)*

Payments of non-consolidated performance pay are paid to high performing staff to reflect their individual contribution during the previous performance year. In the Ministry of Justice, the performance year runs from 1 April to 31 March. Therefore, 2007-08 was the relevant performance year for the payments made during the financial year 2008-09

For grades below the SCS, non-consolidated performance pay is paid to those staff who have been judged to have consistently exceeded their objectives throughout the performance year under the Ministry's performance management system.

During 2008-09 1,676 staff were paid £2,011,200 in non-consolidated performance pay.

*Staff employed in the NOMS Agency (including Public Sector Prisons)*

In the HMPS, the performance year runs from 1 April to 31 March. Therefore, 2007-08 was the relevant performance year for the payments made during the financial year 2008-09

For grades below the SCS end of year end performance bonuses are paid to staff who have consistently exceeded their objectives throughout the performance year.

During 2008-09 5,332 staff were paid £1,325,952 in non-consolidated performance pay.

We are unable to ascertain performance payments made for Probation HQ staff who now fall within NOMS (but were within the Home Office during the reporting period) as figures for this group were not separated from the Home Office total.

*Senior Civil Service*

For Senior Civil Servants in the Ministry of Justice and agencies (whose pay terms are set by the Ministry of Justice) end of year payments of non consolidated performance pay are allocated by the Departmental Pay Committee in accordance with guidelines issued by Cabinet Office each year following the Senior Salaries Review Body recommendations.

During 2008-09, 159 members of the Senior Civil Service were awarded end of year performance pay. The amount paid was £1,648,000.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in 2008-09; and what the total cost of such bonuses was; [279228]

(2) how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in 2008-09; and what the cost was of such bonuses. [276477]

**Mr. Straw:** In year payments of non-consolidated performance pay may be made to recognise one off contributions made by individuals or teams. Information regarding the number and cost of bonus payments is set out as follows.

*Staff on core Ministry of Justice terms and conditions (Including HMCS, Tribunals Service, and MoJ HQ)*

Payment of non-consolidated performance pay to staff below the SCS may be either 'end of year' payments or 'in year'.

'End of year' payments of non-consolidated performance pay are made as part of the annual pay award to staff to staff who have performed at a level beyond that which would normally be expected throughout the performance year.

1,676 staff received non-consolidated performance pay during 2008-09 and the amount paid was £2,011,200 (excluding employer's national insurance contributions). This represented approximately 0.4 per cent. of the overall paybill.

'In year' payments of non-consolidated performance pay are 'one off' payments made to recognise outstanding individual performance on specific occasions during the year.

4,094 staff were awarded 'in year' non-consolidated performance pay for the 2008-09 financial year and the amount paid was £2,105,719 representing 0.4 per cent. of the paybill.

*The NOMS Agency*

Payment of non-consolidated performance pay to staff below the SCS may be either 'end of year' payments or 'in year'. End of year performance pay is paid to staff who have consistently exceeded their objectives throughout the performance year.

In HMPS, the performance year runs from 1 April to 31 March. Therefore, 2007-08 was the relevant performance year for end of year payments made during the financial year 2008-09.

During 2008-09, 5,332 HMPS staff below SCS were paid £1,325,952 in 'end of year' non-consolidated performance pay (excluding employer's national insurance contributions). This represented 0.3 per cent. of the relevant paybill.

We are unable to ascertain performance payments made for Probation HQ staff who now fall within NOMS (but were within the Home Office during the reporting period).

6,198 HMPS staff received 'in-year' non-consolidated performance pay, amounting to £2,855,812. (Excluding employer's national insurance contributions). This represented approximately 0.22 per cent. of the paybill.

Six payments of 'in-year' non-consolidated performance pay were made to chief executives of the Probation Trusts. The amount paid was £26,477. (excluding employer's national insurance contributions).

*The Senior Civil Service*

For senior civil servants in the Ministry of Justice and agencies including the NOMS Agency whose pay terms are set by the Ministry of Justice end of year payments of non-consolidated performance pay are allocated by the Departmental Pay Committee in accordance with guidelines issued by Cabinet Office each year following the Senior Salaries Review Body recommendations.

During 2008-09, 159 members of the senior civil service were awarded 'end of year' performance pay. The amount paid was £1,648,000. (excluding employer's national insurance contributions). This represents 8.4 per cent. of the overall paybill for these staff.

As described above, we will have comprehensive details of 'in year' payments of non-consolidated performance pay for the 2008-09 financial year in early June and will write to you with these details.

## Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of waste his Department recycled in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [281047]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007, this answer gives the amount of waste recycled for the year 2007-08. The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide the volume and percentage of waste recycled for 2006-07 without incurring disproportionate costs.

The volume of waste the Ministry of Justice recycled in 2007-08 was 15,635.6 tonnes and the percentage recycled was 22 per cent. This information was published in the seventh annual "Sustainable Development in Government Report (SDiG)":

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/

## Departmental Training

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on health and safety training for its staff in each of the last two years. [278143]

**Mr. Straw:** The expenditure on Health and Safety Training by the Ministry is stated as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *2008-09* | |
| Ministry of Justice HQ | 47,366 |
| HM Courts Service | 286,805 |
| Tribunals Service | 21,523 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 500 |
| Total | 356,194 |
| *2007-08* | |
| Ministry of Justice HQ | 60,441 |
| HM Courts Service | 293,552 |
| Tribunals Service | 19,810 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 500 |
| Total | 374,303 |

The expenditure incurred is for external training courses, conducted by approved Health and Safety training consultants.

To supplement these external courses, internal Health and Safety training is provided across the Ministry by in-house staff. To obtain an accurate figure for this would incur disproportionate cost.

The National Offender Management Service employs over 50,000 staff in more than 140 locations. At present, there is no single central point for management information relating to health and safety training for staff. To obtain the information requested would involve identifying and contacting sources of information in many different locations and would thus incur disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Waste

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281046]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007, this answer gives the figure for 2007-08. The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide the estimate of waste arising in 2006-07 without incurring disproportionate costs.

The estimate made of total waste arising from the Ministry of Justice in 2007-08 was 71,060 tonnes. The amount per full-time equivalent member of staff in 2007-08 was 0.76 tonnes based upon 93,385 full-time equivalent members of staff (Ministry of Justice core estate plus executive agencies). This includes waste generated by prisoners within HM Prison Service and visitors within HM Courts Service.

### Departmental Water

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the water consumption on his Department's estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280922]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007. The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide the information on water consumption for 2005-06 and 2006-07 without incurring disproportionate costs.

### Drugs: Misuse

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation staff and *(b)* staff work for the Interventions and Substance Misuse Department. [280830]

**Mr. Straw:** Of 157 staff currently in post in the National Offender Management Service's Interventions and Substance Misuse Group 10 are probation staff.

Prior to the NOMS Agency being formed in 2008, the Prison Service tended to manage interventions centrally whereas the probation service managed interventions regionally. Hence ISMG, being a central headquarters function, has largely been formed from existing groups that were previously part of HM Prison Service.

### Homicide: Sentencing

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average sentence was for offenders convicted of attempted murder or conspiracy to murder in each of the last five years. [280842]

**Mr. Straw:** The requested information is shown in the following table. The data show the number of persons sentenced in the last five years, for attempted murder or soliciting or conspiracy to murder and the average custodial sentence length (ACSL). ACSL excludes the growing number of indeterminate sentences.

These are given to the most serious offenders and may cause ACSL to appear lower in recent years.

*Number of persons sentenced, number of indeterminate sentences and Average Custodial Sentence Length (ACSL)[1], for attempted murder[2] or conspiracy to murder[3], 2003-07*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Attempted murder* | | | | | |
| Total number sentenced | 94 | 96 | 66 | 79 | 87 |
| Total indeterminate sentences | 14 | 14 | 9 | 37 | 44 |
| ACSL (years) | 11.3 | 11.3 | 11.8 | 11.8 | 13.4 |
| *Soliciting or conspiracy to murder* | | | | | |
| Total number sentenced | 29 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 21 |
| Total indeterminate sentences | 9 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| ACSL (years) | 10.4 | 10.8 | 8.6 | 12.0 | 6.6 |

[1] Excludes life/indeterminate sentences
[2] Common law
[3] Offences Against the Person Act 1861 S.4
*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system
*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

These data are based on the principal offence. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence, the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences, the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders prosecuted for *(a)* attempted murder and *(b)* conspiracy to murder (i) were found guilty, (ii) received a caution, (iii) received a fine, (iv) received a community sentence, (v) were placed in immediate custody, (vi) received a suspended sentence and (vii) received another disposal in the latest period for which figures are available. [280844]

**Mr. Straw:** Information showing the number of persons cautioned, proceeded against, found guilty, and sentenced (broken down by outcome) for attempted murder and conspiracy to murder for 2007 (latest available) is shown in the table. 2008 data will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Number of persons cautioned[1], proceeded against at magistrates' courts, found guilty at all courts, sentenced, broken down by outcome, for attempted murder[2] and conspiracy to commit murder[3], England and Wales, 2007[4,5]*

| | | | | | Outcome of sentence | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | *Cautioned* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Sentenced* | *Fine* | *Community sentence* | *Suspended sentence* | *Immediate custody* | *Other disposals* |
| Attempted murder | — | 333 | 87 | 87 | — | 1 | 2 | 74 | 10 |
| Conspiracy to commit murder | 3 | 33 | 21 | 21 | — | — | — | 21 | — |

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[2] Includes Attempted Murder, under Common Law.
[3] Includes Conspiracy or soliciting etc; to commit murder under Common Law.
[4] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

## Legal Aid

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much legal aid has been granted to parents seeking access rights to children in each of the last five years. [279196]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Legal Services Commission is unable to identify the amount of legal aid granted solely to parents for contact applications from its case management system, as these applications can also be made by wider family members, such as grandparents or older siblings. These proceedings can also include other issues as well as contact, such as residence, parental responsibility and specific issue orders, and these costs will be included in the certificate costs.

In the past five financial years the following amounts have been paid in closed certificates that involve contact issues.

| *Financial year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 78 |
| 2005-06 | 86 |
| 2006-07 | 92 |
| 2007-08 | 103 |
| 2008-09 | 124 |

A small proportion of the increase in 2008-09 is due to the Legal Services Commission undertaking an exercise to close dormant certificates.

The figures do not include the costs of initial legal advice on contact provided under the controlled Family Help Scheme, as this information is not recorded.

**Mr. Neil Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of legal aid spending was incurred for lawyers' attendance at *(a)* police stations, *(b)* magistrates courts and *(c)* Crown courts in each of the last five years. [280335]

**Bridget Prentice:** The question cannot be answered in the format requested since amounts spent on actual attendance cannot be separately identified. Information is available for 2004-05 to 2007-08 only.

The following table gives the proportions of total legal aid expenditure for police stations, magistrates courts and the Crown court for attendance related work and includes work done in preparation for attendance. Work which is clearly not related to attendance such as police station telephone advice has been excluded. Expenditure not related to police stations, magistrates courts and the Crown court, such as representation for prisoners at prison disciplinary hearings has also been excluded.

Overall legal aid expenditure is made up of criminal and civil legal aid. The Legal Services Commission's annual reports show the spend each year between the two schemes.

*Proportions of overall legal aid expenditure*

| | | | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Police stations | 8.1 | 8.7 | 9.7 | 8.2 |
| Magistrates courts | 14.4 | 14.7 | 15.4 | 12.1 |
| Crown court | 33.5 | 34.2 | 32.5 | 34.2 |

## Prisons: Mental Health Services

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the costs of the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder Programme have been in each year since it began. [279066]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice and Department of Health have worked together to establish a range of pilot services for dangerous offenders with severe personality disorder in prisons, high and medium secure national health service (NHS) facilities and the community. The programme was announced in 2001 as a commitment to provide at least an extra 300 places for offenders who fell into the dangerous and severe personality disorder category.

The total capital investment for the programme has been £128 million. This expenditure resulted in three high secure units (two in hospitals and one in a prison), three medium secure units and two NHS hostels. It is estimated that across the NHS and the National Offender

Management Service in each year between 2003-04 and 2005-06 the revenue expenditure incurred was £40 million and since 2006-07, £60 million, reflecting the increase in the available places over that period. The costs include the provision of assessment and treatment, a research and evaluation programme, and for the central team responsible for the development and management of the programme.

## Probation: Finance

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the speedy recall processes to be introduced in the London Probation Service will be funded. [280503]

**Maria Eagle:** London Probation is already required to complete and submit recall breach reports within the national target of 24 hours. The intention is that existing processes will be improved to ensure compliance with the target and that this work will be undertaken within existing resources. London Probation is committed to working closely with its partner agencies, the Metropolitan police and the National Offender Management Service Public Protection Casework Section, to improve the efficiency of the recall process from the initiating of recall by London Probation through to the arrest by the police. This work is being monitored by the London Criminal Justice Board and the London Director of Offender Management.

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget was for each probation area in each year since 1997. [280784]

**Maria Eagle:** The resource budget allocations to individual probation areas from 2001-02 are given in the table. Prior to 2001-02 probation services were delivered through local probation committees which were partly funded by local authorities and were organised on a slightly different basis.

The budget figures shown for 2009-10 may be subject to further change.

Since 2001-02 there have been changes to the budget allocation methodology, plus machinery of government changes and accounting methodology changes that make it difficult to compare figures over a long period.

*Probation areas end-year budgets—at 16 June 2009*

£000

| Areas | 2009-10 | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | Revenue 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 2002-03 | 2001-02 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 20,300 | 20,727 | 20,661 | 19,771 | 18,273 | 16,851 | 15,612 | 14,891 | 15,856 |
| Bedfordshire | 9,556 | 9,571 | 8,863 | 8,499 | 8,180 | 7,182 | 6,517 | 6,196 | 5,526 |
| Cambridgeshire | 10,092 | 10,341 | 9,727 | 9,273 | 8,895 | 7,375 | 6,835 | 6,168 | 6,365 |
| Cheshire | 15,133 | 15,571 | 14,715 | 15,688 | 15,393 | 13,427 | 11,692 | 10,012 | 8,984 |
| Cumbria | 8,626 | 8,376 | 8,217 | 7,897 | 7,466 | 6,241 | 6,279 | 5,710 | 5,288 |
| Derbyshire | 14,042 | 15,168 | 13,490 | 12,891 | 12,166 | 11,088 | 10,335 | 9,516 | 8,534 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 20,306 | 21,037 | 20,225 | 19,638 | 18,184 | 15,646 | 15,667 | 13,967 | 12,740 |
| Dorset | 9,067 | 9,408 | 8,522 | 8,277 | 7,989 | 7,338 | 7,307 | 6,876 | 5,761 |
| Durham | 10,615 | 11,148 | 10,720 | 10,245 | 9,513 | 8,697 | 7,820 | 7,431 | 5,975 |
| Essex | 19,325 | 20,319 | 19,977 | 18,922 | 17,839 | 16,220 | 14,849 | 14,502 | 13,700 |
| Gloucestershire | 7,677 | 7,858 | 7,379 | 6,959 | 6,524 | 5,975 | 5,874 | 5,102 | 4,943 |
| Hampshire | 24,868 | 25,614 | 24,338 | 23,057 | 21,872 | 20,026 | 18,427 | 18,079 | 13,841 |
| Hertfordshire | 11,468 | 11,750 | 11,265 | 10,569 | 9,618 | 8,691 | 8,409 | 8,654 | 7,034 |
| Humberside | 17,377 | 18,380 | 17,187 | 16,130 | 14,964 | 13,010 | 12,422 | 11,090 | 9,414 |
| Kent | 21,449 | 21,798 | 20,993 | 20,340 | 19,052 | 16,760 | 16,322 | 15,116 | 13,673 |
| Lancashire | 24,516 | 24,406 | 22,979 | 21,394 | 20,251 | 18,837 | 18,600 | 16,859 | 14,307 |
| Leicestershire | 15,237 | 15,668 | 14,402 | 13,805 | 13,071 | 11,778 | 11,086 | 9,911 | 8,774 |
| Lincolnshire | 9,436 | 9,794 | 9,292 | 9,038 | 8,446 | 7,469 | 7,134 | 6,127 | 5,606 |
| Norfolk | 11,582 | 11,980 | 11,168 | 10,608 | 10,205 | 8,477 | 7,927 | 7,171 | 6,543 |
| Northamptonshire | 9,389 | 9,673 | 9,116 | 8,816 | 8,149 | 7,158 | 6,920 | 6,018 | 5,131 |
| North Yorkshire | 9,827 | 10,350 | 10,236 | 9,478 | 8,998 | 7,937 | 7,486 | 6,877 | 5,701 |
| Nottinghamshire | 19,303 | 19,686 | 19,057 | 18,117 | 17,190 | 14,861 | 14,232 | 13,220 | 11,658 |
| Staffordshire | 16,885 | 17,260 | 16,393 | 15,913 | 14,361 | 12,319 | 11,769 | 10,930 | 9,586 |
| Suffolk | 10,018 | 10,243 | 9,643 | 9,445 | 8,771 | 7,583 | 7,361 | 6,889 | 6,268 |
| Surrey | 10,249 | 10,953 | 10,390 | 10,081 | 9,421 | 7,779 | 7,784 | 7,523 | 6,881 |
| Sussex | 18,074 | 18,388 | 17,373 | 16,991 | 15,677 | 14,033 | 12,789 | 11,367 | 10,396 |
| Teesside | 13,408 | 13,715 | 13,606 | 13,052 | 12,178 | 10,954 | 10,613 | 9,523 | 9,805 |
| Thames Valley | 25,776 | 26,614 | 25,405 | 24,373 | 23,421 | 20,795 | 19,787 | 18,463 | 20,831 |
| Warwickshire | 7,177 | 7,538 | 6,937 | 6,743 | 6,492 | 5,698 | 5,452 | 4,749 | 4,368 |
| West Mercia | 15,217 | 15,692 | 15,443 | 13,642 | 13,197 | 11,774 | 11,188 | 10,057 | 9,251 |
| Wiltshire | 8,064 | 8,214 | 7,874 | 7,720 | 7,224 | 5,964 | 5,510 | 4,874 | 4,606 |
| Greater Manchester | 51,577 | 52,798 | 48,309 | 47,532 | 45,645 | 40,985 | 38,521 | 34,479 | 31,731 |
| Merseyside | 31,729 | 32,756 | 29,263 | 28,820 | 28,643 | 25,798 | 24,621 | 22,410 | 23,062 |
| Northumbria | 29,109 | 29,801 | 27,646 | 26,964 | 26,005 | 22,999 | 22,113 | 18,459 | 16,641 |
| South Yorkshire | 24,977 | 25,511 | 24,282 | 24,058 | 23,041 | 20,858 | 20,381 | 18,191 | 16,153 |
| West Midlands | 56,913 | 59,331 | 55,055 | 53,377 | 50,140 | 44,076 | 41,932 | 38,581 | 32,865 |
| West Yorkshire | 41,080 | 42,982 | 40,036 | 38,193 | 36,226 | 33,366 | 30,986 | 28,062 | 26,931 |

*Probation areas end-year budgets—at 16 June2009*

£000

| Areas | 2009-10 | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | Revenue 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 2002-03 | 2001-02 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| London | 150,384 | 153,617 | 143,404 | 137,416 | 132,637 | 107,888 | 110,390 | 106,612 | 94,328 |
| Dyfed Powys | 8,417 | 8,960 | 8,295 | 8,058 | 7,541 | 6,478 | 5,784 | 5,162 | 4,579 |
| Gwent | 11,172 | 11,404 | 11,252 | 10,930 | 10,018 | 8,938 | 8,029 | 7,197 | 5,215 |
| North Wales | 12,244 | 12,530 | 11,786 | 11,696 | 11,027 | 10,067 | 9,044 | 8,223 | 6,774 |
| South Wales | 24,624 | 25,566 | 25,226 | 24,402 | 23,098 | 20,917 | 19,328 | 18,104 | 17,062 |
| Total | 886,285 | 912,496 | 860,172 | 828,817 | 786,995 | 690,312 | 661,130 | 609,348 | 557,686 |

## Probation: Sick Leave

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of sickness absence in the Probation Service in *(a)* London and *(b)* the London Borough of Lewisham. [280505]

**Maria Eagle:** London Probation has put in place a number of measures to tackle the levels of sickness in the whole area as well as in Lewisham and Greenwich. These include pro-active measures such as close monitoring by managers and return to work interviews, as well as a range of preventative measures such as health screens and stress management.

## Probation: Training

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any specific funding is to be provided for the prioritised training ordered for the London Service. [280501]

**Maria Eagle:** There will be no additional funding provided for London Probation by National Offender Management Service. London Probation will fund this work from within their existing budget.

## Rape: Convictions

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of those convicted of rape since 2006 were aged *(a)* 10 to 15, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 25, *(d)* 26 to 30 and *(e)* over 30 years old. [280668]

**Claire Ward:** The number of defendants found guilty for rape (of a female and male) at all courts, by age group, England and Wales 2006 to 2007 can be viewed in the table.

The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Number of defendants found guilty of rape[1] at all courts, by age group, England and Wales 2006 and 2007[2,3]*

| | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age group | Found guilty | Percentage of total convictions | Found guilty | Percentage of total convictions |
| 10 to 15 years | 31 | 4 | 34 | 4 |
| 16 to 18 years | 63 | 8 | 57 | 7 |
| 19 to 25 years | 142 | 19 | 148 | 19 |
| 26 to 30 years | 72 | 10 | 82 | 11 |
| Over 30 years | 446 | 59 | 456 | 59 |
| Total | 754 | 100 | 777 | 100 |

[1] Includes rape of a female and rape of a male offences, but not attempted rape of a male or female.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
OCJR - Evidence and Analysis Unit

## Sentencing

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the sentencing guidelines for offences related to *(a)* child abuse, *(b)* child neglect and *(c)* sexual abuse of children. [281345]

**Claire Ward:** Sentencing guidelines are issued to the courts by the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council, not by the Government. In April 2007, the Sentencing Guidelines Council published a definitive guideline on the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and in February 2008, they published a definitive guideline on the Overarching Principles: Assaults on Children and Cruelty to a Child.

These and all other published guidelines can be viewed at:

www.sentencing-guidelines.gov.uk

## Sexual Offences: Reoffenders

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the re-offending rate was for offenders convicted of sex offences who received *(a)* a community sentence, *(b)* a prison sentence of less than 12 months, *(c)* a prison sentence of between 12 months and two years, *(d)* a prison sentence of between two and four years and *(e)* a prison sentence of over four years in the latest period for which figures are available; [280838]

(2) what the re-offending rate was for offenders convicted of violent crimes who received *(a)* a community sentence, *(b)* a prison sentence of less than 12 months, *(c)* a prison sentence of between 12 months and two years, *(d)* a prison sentence of between two and four years and *(e)* a prison sentence of over four years in the latest period for which figures are available; [280843]

(3) what the re-offending rate was for offenders convicted of burglary who received *(a)* a community sentence, *(b)* a prison sentence of less than 12 months, *(c)* a prison sentence of between 12 months and two years, *(d)* a prison sentence of between two and four years and *(e)* a prison sentence of over four years in the latest period for which figures are available; [280848]

(4) what the re-offending rate was for offenders convicted of robbery who received *(a)* a community sentence, *(b)* a prison sentence of less than 12 months, *(c)* a prison sentence of between 12 months and two years, *(d)* a prison sentence of between two and four years and *(e)* a prison sentence of over four years in the latest period for which figures are available; [280849]

(5) what the re-offending rate was for offenders convicted of theft who received *(a)* a community sentence, *(b)* a prison sentence of less than 12 months, *(c)* a prison sentence of between 12 months and two years, *(d)* a prison sentence of between two and four years and *(e)* a prison sentence of over four years in the latest period for which figures are available. [280850]

**Mr. Straw:** Tables 1 and 2 show the one-year adult reoffending rates for offenders in England and Wales released from custody or commencing a court order in the first quarter (1 January to 31 March) of 2007, for offenders convicted of sex offences (with sexual offences against children as a separate group), violent crimes, burglary (with domestic and non-domestic as separate groups), robbery and theft. The tables also show the proportion of offenders who committed at least one further offence and the frequency of offences per 100 offenders. It is important to note that a reoffence does not mean the offence is in the same category as the index offence. So an offender whose index offence was sexual who committed a number of reoffences, may have committed no more sexual offences.

*Table 1: One-year reoffending rates, offenders commencing a court order or released from custody in quarter 1 2007 by offence group*

| Offence group/ disposal | Number of offenders | Actual reoffending rate | Number of offences per 100 offenders |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Court orders*[1] | | | |
| Violence | 10,301 | 28.8 | 75.4 |
| Sexual | 294 | 22.1 | 51.7 |
| Sexual (child) | 209 | 12.0 | 32.1 |
| Domestic burglary | 842 | 50.8 | 162.2 |
| Other burglary | 1,082 | 57.6 | 207.1 |
| Robbery | 144 | 36.1 | 94.4 |
| Theft | 5,627 | 59.1 | 251.6 |
| *Custody* | | | |
| Violence | 2,922 | 40.8 | 155.4 |
| Sexual | 213 | 28.2 | 128.6 |
| Sexual (child) | 377 | 6.9 | 16.2 |
| Domestic burglary | 778 | 49.6 | 198.5 |
| Other burglary | 504 | 67.9 | 318.7 |
| Robbery | 672 | 35.6 | 123.7 |
| Theft | 2,001 | 73.6 | 468.2 |

[1] Court orders include pre-CJA 2003 community sentences, new community orders and suspended sentence orders.

*Table 2: One-year reoffending rates, offenders released from custody in quarter 1 2007 by offence group and sentence length*

| Offence group/ disposal | Number of offenders | Actual reoffending rate | Number of offences per 100 offenders |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Less than 12months* | | | |
| Violence | 1,772 | 52.8 | 212.0 |
| Sexual | 90 | 45.6 | 225.6 |
| Sexual (child) | 53 | 3.8 | [1]— |
| Domestic burglary | 180 | 62.2 | 300.6 |
| Other burglary | 367 | 75.7 | 372.2 |
| Robbery | [2]36 | [2]66.7 | [2]236.1 |
| Theft | 1,868 | 79.5 | 495.2 |
| *12 months to less than 2 years* | | | |
| Violence | 482 | 25.3 | 76.1 |
| Sexual | [2]37 | [2]32.4 | [2]151.4 |
| Sexual (child) | 78 | 11.5 | [2]35.9 |
| Domestic burglary | 227 | 50.2 | 181.1 |
| Other burglary | 89 | 56.2 | 288.8 |
| Robbery | 120 | 45.0 | 164.2 |
| Theft | 86 | 26.7 | 112.8 |
| *2 years to less than 4 years* | | | |
| Violence | 383 | 23.5 | 62.9 |
| Sexual | [2]41 | [2]7.3 | [1]— |
| Sexual (child) | 113 | 5.3 | [2]9.7 |
| Domestic burglary | 301 | 44.5 | 165.8 |
| Other burglary | [2]43 | [2]30.2 | [2]155.8 |
| Robbery | 299 | 32.8 | 112.7 |
| Theft | [2]38 | [2]10.5 | [2]34.2 |
| *4 years and over* | | | |
| Violence | 285 | 16.1 | 61.8 |
| Sexual | [2]45 | [2]8.9 | [2]26.7 |
| Sexual (child) | 133 | 6.8 | [2]14.3 |
| Domestic burglary | 70 | 37.1 | 132.9 |
| Other burglary | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Robbery | 217 | 29.0 | 97.7 |
| Theft | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |

[1] Data removed as extremely low numbers (less than or equal to 10 offenders or 10 offences) make the data unreliable for interpretation.
[2] Greater than 10 and less than 50 offenders or offences—treat the data with caution.

Further information on the one-year rates of reoffending can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

## Young Offenders: Education

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 894W, on young offenders: education, how

much the Youth Justice Board was allocated for expenditure on education in each year since 1999. [280235]

**Mr. Straw:** Funding was not allocated in 1999-2000, as 2000-01 was the first year in which the Government provided funding to the Youth Justice Board for expenditure on education.

The following table therefore shows for each year from 2000-01 to 2008-09, (A) the total funding which the YJB has allocated for expenditure on education from its Ministry of Justice (and previously Home Office) grant; and, (B) the amount of DCSF (previously DFES and DFEE) funding allocated to the YJB for education expenditure.

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *MoJ/HO funding allocated for expenditure on education by the YJB* | *DCSF/DFES/DFEE funding allocated to the YJB for expenditure on education* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 12 | 3 |
| 2001-02 | 14 | 10 |
| 2002-03 | 16 | 10 |
| 2003-04 | 18 | 12 |
| 2004-05 | 18 | 15 |
| 2005-06 | 21 | 19 |
| 2006-07 | 22 | 22 |
| 2007-08 | 24 | 22 |
| 2008-09 | 26 | 23 |

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Romsey of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 519W, on anti-social behaviour orders, on what date data for anti-social behaviour orders 2007 will be published. [279621]

**Alan Johnson:** The publication date for the antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) 2007 data has yet to be confirmed.

### Bail

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions pre-charge bail conditions were imposed by the police in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; in how many cases the subject of the conditions applied to the police for variation of the conditions in each of those years; how many such applications were unsuccessful; in how many of those cases the subject of the conditions appealed to a magistrates' court; and in how many such cases the bail conditions were (i) varied and (ii) overturned. [279745]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Departmental Contracts

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 289-90W, on departmental contracts, what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost of the contracts awarded to each of the other organisations and bodies including named individuals was in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [269250]

**Alan Johnson:** The tables, based on centrally held management information, provide the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost of research contracts let by the Research, Development and Statistics group within the Home Office, awarded to organisations and bodies not funded by the higher education funding councils in 2007-08 and 2008-09. This includes contracts awarded to individuals who, whilst employed by an institute supported by the higher education funding councils, undertake work in a private capacity. The purpose is taken from the project title held centrally. The values of contracts are classified in the year the contracts were let; some of the costs for the contract would be for future years, as in the case of the largest contract listed—the £15 million for the British Crime Survey of which the majority of costs will be spread over three years. The costs of each contract represent the estimated cost at the time the contract was let and not on the actual costs incurred.

*Table 1: Contracts awarded by the Research, Development and Statistics group within the Home Office to organisations and bodies, including named individuals, not funded by higher education councils in 2007-08*

| *Organisation* | *Title of project* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Analytica | Analysis of IPCC and Biometrics Registration Code of Practice Consultations | 59,000 |
| BMRB | British Crime Survey | 15 million |
| Dr. F. MacDonald | Fish Welfare (Animal Procedures Committee) | <10,000 |
| Dr. Ronald Clarke | I-phones—research on he impact that the launch of the i-phone on crime levels and patterns in the USA | <10,000 |
| Eurasylum | The use and effectiveness of automated passenger border entry and exit systems: learning from experiences in other countries to inform BIA's automated clearance strategy | 90,000 |
| Evidence Led Solutions | Neighbourhood Policing—BCU Process Evaluation; and, A worked anonymised example of a strategic assessment | <10,000 |
| Garry Robbins | Quality Assurance of the Missing Data | <10,000 |
| Geoff Berry Associates | Neighbourhood Policing—BCU Process Evaluation | <10,000 |
| HVR Consulting | Quality Assure the Crime Reduction Modelling Methodology | 15,000 |
| ICPR, Kings College | Evaluation of the Licensing Act 2003 | <10,000 |
| Independent Social Research | Evaluation of neighbourhood policing: the experience of black and minority ethnic residents in the first year of implementation | 11,000 |
| Institute for Employment Studies | Understanding the perspective of potential sponsors on Points Based System (PBS) sponsorship arrangement | 21,000 |

*Table 1: Contracts awarded by the Research, Development and Statistics group within the Home Office to organisations and bodies, including named individuals, not funded by higher education councils in 2007-08*

| Organisation | Title of project | Cost (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Ipsos MORI | Exploration of Regional Variation in Uptake of Powers used to Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour | 40,000 |
| Mark Underhill | Consultancy Services to Home Office Forensic Science Regulation Unit | 80,000 |
| Matrix | Protective Service Evaluation (2 projects); and, Routes of Trafficking | 489,000 |
| Morgan Harris Burrows | Neighbourhood Policing—BCU Process Evaluation | <10,000 |
| MVA Consultancy | Analysis of IPCC and Biometrics Registration Code of Practice Consultations | 90,000 |
| NatCen | Extension of Use of FIP System; and, Evaluation of Intensive Family Intervention Projects | 47,000 |
| ORC International | Home Office Staff Survey | 67,000 |
| Perpetuity Research and Consultancy | TGAP—research on a variety of projects and interventions to tackle gangs and gang related crime. | 50,000 |
| Professor Anthony Culyer | Economic Strategy Panel | <10,000 |
| Professor C. Dustmann | Economic Strategy Panel | <10,000 |
| Professor C. Godfrey | Economic Strategy Panel | <10,000 |
| Professor C. Hale | Economic Strategy Panel | <10,000 |
| Professor Clive Smee | Economic Strategy Panel | <10,000 |
| Professor M. Waterson | Economic Strategy Panel | <10,000 |
| Professor R. Vickerman | Economic Strategy Panel | <10,000 |
| Professor S. Machin | Economic Strategy Panel | <10,000 |
| Professor S. Pudney | Economic Strategy Panel | <10,000 |
| RED Scientific | Big Picture Plant—Whole System Modelling | 20,000 |
| Risk Solutions | An Evaluation of Alcohol Arrest Referral Schemes | 150,000 |
| Robert Bramley | Expert advisor to the Forensic Science Regulator Unit | 13,000 |
| Transparency Research Ltd. | Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP): a process and impact assessment | 70,000 |
| York Consulting | A review of theoretical and practical issues in the conceptualisation and measurement of labour shortages, skill shortages and skills gaps | 15,000 |

*Table 2. Contracts awarded by the Research, Development and Statistics group within the Home Office to organisations and bodies, including named individuals, not funded by higher education councils in 2008-09*

| Organisation | Purpose (title of project) | Cost (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Alex Hirschfield | Regional Team Advisors to the Regional Research and Analysis Team | <10,000 |
| Evidence Led Solutions | Regional Team Advisors to the Regional Research and Analysis Team (RRAP) and Senior Advisor Extension | <10,000 |
| Geoff Berry | Regional Team Advisors to the Regional Research and Analysis Team | <10,000 |
| Ipsos MORI | Neighbourhood Policing—Phase 2 (2 projects); The migrant survey: a feasibility study; and, Business Crime Survey scoping exercise: Methodological work to consider the scope and feasibility of developing a new survey to measure commercial victimisation. | 229,000 |
| Julia Wickson | Regional Team Advisors to the Regional Research and Analysis Team | <10,000 |
| Mike Maguire | Regional Team Advisors to the Regional Research and Analysis Team | <10,000 |
| Morgan Harris Burrows | Regional Team Advisors to the Regional Research and Analysis Team | <10,000 |
| ORC International | 2007 Staff Survey (Amendment 2) | 64,000 |
| UCL Consultants | Senior Advisor Extension | <10,000 |

## Energy Supply: Security

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake in relation to the energy sector. [280351]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) is the Government authority that provides protective security advice to owners and operators across the national infrastructure.

CPNI works closely with the national infrastructure organisations within the energy sector, in conjunction with the sector sponsor department, in order to identify vulnerabilities and help improve protection against national security threats. This includes delivery of an extensive programme of security enhancements at critical energy sites working with operators such as National Grid.

For reasons of national security it would not be appropriate to disclose details of work carried out on such programmes.

## Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports he has received of allegations that a British resident, Mrs Balasingham, was involved in terrorist activities on behalf of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. [280682]

**Mr. Hanson:** We are aware that allegations have been made against a British resident of involvement with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The investigation and prosecution of such allegations are operational matters for, respectively, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

### Offenders: Deportation

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the automatic deportation of foreign prisoners convicted of *(a)* illegal gun possession and *(b)* drug dealing. [279616]

**Alan Johnson:** We are targeting the most harmful first. We have met the Prime Minister's commitment to remove those that come to the UK and use guns or sell drugs. All Foreign Nationals who are sentenced to 12 months or more for offences relating to violence, sex or drugs are considered for deportation by UKBA. Foreign criminals from outside the EEA found guilty of serious drug and gun offences who receive a custodial sentence will also now be considered for deportation, regardless of length of sentence. Non-EEA nationals sentenced to 12 months or more will now be automatically considered for deportation.

### Police: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the policing pledge in Greater Manchester. [279774]

**Mr. Hanson:** It is for individual police forces and authorities to drive implementation of the Policing Pledge and assess its benefits for the public in their area. The Government will hold forces to account for progress through the single top-down targets we have set them to improve public confidence that crime and antisocial behaviour issues are being tackled locally, and in the light of inspection work by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

HMIC are currently assessing the progress that each police force in England and Wales is making on delivering the Policing Pledge. They published a report on their early findings from an initial scoping of seven forces on 9 June. The more detailed inspections of the Pledge commenced on 14 April and will conclude by 31 October 2009.

### Terrorism

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 373W, on terrorism, how many people have been trained under Project Argus; and what the cost of the Project has been to date. [278446]

**Alan Johnson:** The police National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) advise that over 900 Project Argus events have been held since January 2007 with attendance at each event falling in the range 20 to 120. NaCTSO estimate that the cost of developing the various versions of Project Argus to date is about £380,000. Project Argus events are generally hosted by the business which requested it, and are delivered by police Counter Terrorism Security Advisers (CTSAs) who also perform other protective security functions.

### United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* children and *(b)* women over 18 years of age have been referred to the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre since the introduction of the national referral mechanism. [277123]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** As at the end of April there have been a total of 35 referrals to the competent authorities based in UKHTC and UKBA. Of these 27 were female with nine referrals being of people under the age of 18.

### Vetting

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether national guidance has been issued to police forces on information which should be included in Criminal Records Bureau disclosures; [279867]

(2) what criteria are used by police forces in deciding whether to *(a)* include and *(b)* exclude information in relation to a Criminal Records Bureau disclosure. [279868]

**Alan Johnson:** Section 114 B (4) of Part V of the Police Act 1997 requires that in addition to criminal record information from the Police National Computer (PNC), Enhanced Disclosures should include any other information which a chief police officer considers might be relevant to the job application in question.

This is usually non-conviction information deriving from local force records and is referred to as 'approved information'; chief officers are obliged to provide such information for Enhanced Disclosures under the Act. Where disclosed, information of this nature is considered by the police to represent a factual record of previous events that an employer in the most sensitive type of occupation should be aware of in making an employment decision affecting the most vulnerable groups of people.

Factors that would be taken into consideration when making decisions to disclose would include, but not be restricted to, the position the individual is currently applying for, the age of the information, whether the information might be directly relevant to the assessment of the person's suitability to work with children and whether it is reasonable to disclose the information, bearing in mind the human rights of the individuals concerned.

In making such assessments, the chief officers follow guidelines including, Home Office circular 5 / 2005—"Criminal Records Bureau: Local Checks by Police Forces for the Purpose of Enhanced Disclosure" and this has been augmented by a process known as the Quality Assurance Framework. The circular makes clear that consideration has been given to a person's right to privacy under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In this regard there is a section in the circular which details what factors should be considered in determining relevancy.

The Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) is a standardised approach to processing local intelligence information relating to a Disclosure application held by Police Force Disclosure Units. QAF provides a step-by-step process framework that ensures that information is considered consistently and in the same way every time. searches performed on local systems using the QAF Framework and document set produce an audit trail that can be used for quality assurance and to assure QAF compliance.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosures were issued for those *(a)* working with children, *(b)* applying for an alcohol

licence, *(c)* applying to work as a licensed minicab driver, *(d)* working with vulnerable adults and *(e)* subject to a CRB check for another reason in each police force area in each of the last 10 years; [279869]

(2) how many Criminal Records Bureau disclosures were issued in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [279872]

**Alan Johnson:** Since it's inception in 2002, the CRB has issued over 19 million disclosures and the following table shows this broken down by disclosures issued in each financial year.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1,437,094 |
| 2003-04 | 2,284,688 |
| 2004-05 | 2,430,937 |
| 2005-06 | 2,770,265 |
| 2006-07 | 3,277,957 |
| 2007-08 | 3,323,334 |
| 2008-09 | 3,853,686 |

Of those, the following table shows the number of disclosure applications submitted in each financial year since inception that requested:

checks against the Protection of Children Act (PoCA) list and List 99;

checks against the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoVA) list for those individuals working within the care sector;

checks against all lists.

| | *PoCA checks* | *PoVA checks* | *Number All lists* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1,209 | 6 | 61 |
| 2003-04 | 1,557,904 | 29 | 9 |
| 2004-05 | 1,338,278 | 369,149 | 527,856 |
| 2005-06 | 1,215,074 | 516,062 | 924,627 |
| 2006-07 | 1,401,528 | 483,961 | 1,124,745 |
| 2007-08 | 1,390,153 | 487,441 | 1,312,159 |

The CRB is unable to provide this information based on employment sectors or broken down by each police force area because the information is not collated in this manner.

These figures do not constitute part of national statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under national statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympics *(a)* athletics events and *(b)* opening and closing ceremonies at the Olympic Stadium. [279447]

**Tessa Jowell:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic games including athletics events and the opening and closing ceremonies at the Olympic Stadium.

The budget announced at the end of 2007 for the Olympic Stadium was £496 million. This was increased to £504 million to include £8 million of structural enhancements to the roof in relation to loading requirements for the opening and closing ceremonies. Potential cost pressures arising from possible scope requirements and design development had been further estimated at an additional £43 million. Those cost pressures have now reduced to £34 million and are included currently in the Anticipated Final Cost published in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games- Quarterly Economic Report May 2009.

The direct costs associated with staging the events at the stadium including the opening and closing ceremonies come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse from London 2012 venues, including the Olympic Stadium and Park. However, these costs such as in security and transport systems have not yet been identified separately for individual events and will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the viability of a 14 to 25 academic hub for the creative industries. [280657]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* The University of the Arts London together with four secondary schools and two further education colleges in the London borough of Newham are currently carrying out a three-year pilot to establish how a 14-25 hub may work.

The evaluation and review of the first year of the Newham Creative Hub will be published in December 2009 and disseminated via the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, the National Arts Learning Network and the Council for Higher Education in Art and Design networks, to the higher education sector.

My Department will work with the member organisations to produce this report and will consider its findings.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of progress on the Creative Britain project; how many apprenticeships have been created under the project; and if he will make a statement. [280659]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) to my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong) on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1264W.

Since the publication of Creative Britain, 400 apprenticeships have started on frameworks associated with the creative industries. These include the Creative Apprenticeships and the Quality Assurance Games Testing.

This figure does not include apprentices working in the creative industries on non-creative apprenticeships. The National Apprenticeship Service will be able to calculate this information from September.

### BBC

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what factors were taken into account in determining the Government's targets for levels of BBC enhanced network production in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland. [281470]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Enhanced network production targets are the responsibility of the BBC Trust, who determine their targets independently of Government. However, the Government look to the BBC Trust to encourage the BBC to seek to exceed its targets in network production.

### Broadcasting: Wales

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding will be made available for broadcasting in Wales as a result of proposals contained in the Digital Britain White Paper. [281468]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The White Paper sets out various proposals in respect of public service broadcasting, including Independently Funded News Consortia. The total amount of funding made available to the news pilot in Wales is contingent on the consultation on a contained contestable element within the licence fee.

### Coastal Areas: Regeneration

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been made available for Bournemouth through the Sea Change Initiative; and what plans there are for further such expenditure. [280913]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* To date, Bournemouth has been allocated £455,000 through the Sea Change Programme. Bournemouth would be eligible to apply for funding from the current round of the programme but, as yet, we are not aware of any project being put forward.

### Digital Broadcasting

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 981W, on digital broadcasting, for what reasons the Ulster region was the only region not to have an indicative take-up figure. [281462]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* In February, the sample size used for research in the Ulster region was too small to give a reasonable indication of take-up. However, since then the sample size for Ulster has been increased as the programme moved forward, and the DigitalUK tracker now estimates current take up at 74 per cent.

### Digital Technology: Mass Media

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding will be made available for the pilot independently financed news consortia announced in the Digital Britain White Paper. [281466]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Funding for piloted news consortia will be determined following the consultation outlined in the Digital Britain Report and an examination of the scope of commercial revenue that could be achieved. The current cost of broadcast regional news in the nations ranges from £4 million to £7 million per nation per annum.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for how long the pilot independently financed news consortia announced in the Digital Britain White Paper are expected to last. [281467]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Pilots are expected to commence in 2010 and run until the end of 2012. This timetable will be subject to review.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when tenders will be invited for the pilot independently financed news consortia announced in the Digital Britain White Paper. [281469]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Our intention is to begin the pilots in 2010. The process for tender and award is currently being developed.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who will take decisions on tenders for the pilot independently financed news consortia announced in the Digital Britain White Paper. [281448]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The process for tender and award is currently being developed.

### Film: Israel

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what recent progress has been made on the implementation of the UK-Israel Film Co-production Treaty; [281298]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with the Government of Israel on collaboration between the UK and Israeli film industries. [281299]

**Mr. Simon:** We have completed the substantive negotiations with Israel on a film co-production agreement. There are some minor elements to be finalised, but we expect to be able to announce arrangements for the signing of this treaty in the summer.

### Mass Media: Wales

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the merits of establishing a media commission for Wales. [281449]

**Mr. Simon:** The Government do not propose centrally to fund a new media commission for Wales as the costs have to be set against the other options and priorities for Government, especially as replicating media commissions in each of the UK's nations would substantially increase the overall costs. The Government are proposing to fund a piloted English language news provision in Wales.

### Swimming

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations he has received on the funding by his Department of estimated local authority costs of operating the free swimming programme. [279905]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** To date, my Department has recorded 112 written representations on the estimated local authority costs of operating the free swimming programme.

### UK School Games: Finance

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what means the UK School Games has been funded in each of its first three years; and how it will be funded in each year to 2012. [279840]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* Since the inaugural UK School Games took place in 2006, funding for the annual event has come from a mixture of Exchequer, lottery, private sponsorship and host city money. The UK School Games runs until the end of the current spending period 2011, and we envisage that this funding arrangement will continue until then. Plans for the Games beyond 2011 have not been considered.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Climate Change: International Cooperation

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the development of international financing mechanisms for mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries as part of a climate agreement to be reached at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. [280353]

**Joan Ruddock:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have been discussing the development of international finance mechanisms for mitigation and adaptation with our EU colleagues ahead of the EU Councils this year, as part of preparing the EU position in advance of Copenhagen. In particular, the UK is attracted to the Norwegian proposal (a market-based approach based on auctioning arrangements generating automatic revenues) as part of the solution. Spring Council conclusions directed future discussions towards such an approach among others. The UK is also attracted to the Mexican proposal which is based on all countries except the poorest contributing on the basis of an agreed scale. The latest ECOFIN conclusions endorsed this idea, with burden sharing based on the ability to pay and the responsibility for emissions. At Spring Council and again in ECOFIN the EU reaffirmed its commitment to contribute its fair share of international support in the context of a global and comprehensive agreement.

### Earth Hour

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to support Earth Hour on 28 March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [266651]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* I apologise for the delay in this response. The Government are committed to achieving a successful outcome to the negotiations in Copenhagen later in the year, and campaigns such as Earth Hour play an important part in sending a strong message to world leaders that firm public support for positive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions comes from all parts of the globe. To show support for the campaign the lights were turned off in several Government buildings including the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

### Energy: Meters

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the Government's latest estimate is of the average cost of installing a smart meter. [281453]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government published a consultation on smart metering on 11 May 2009 with an accompanying Impact Assessment (both documents are available from the Open Consultations section of the DECC website). The Impact Assessment contains estimates of smart meter installation costs.

The estimated asset costs are £43 for a smart electricity meter and £56 for a smart gas meter. Installation costs are estimated at £29 for a smart electricity meter and £49 for a smart gas meter, or £68 for a dual fuel smart meter installation (where both gas and electricity smart meters are installed simultaneously). The cost for the communications link from the meters is estimated at £15 per household. In addition, the Government's expectation is that a standalone display—to provide customers with consumption information from smart meters—will be provided for each household. The cost of the display is estimated at £15.

### Fuel Poverty: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to reduce levels of fuel poverty in Denton and Reddish constituency. [279769]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government have a wide range of policies and programmes to tackle fuel poverty. The combination of Warm Front, CERT, Decent Homes and local programmes delivered through local government partnerships are all important in tackling fuel poverty in each local area.

The Warm Front Scheme continues to be the Government's main tool for tackling fuel poverty in the private sector in England. Since 2005 Warm Front has assisted over 2,600 vulnerable Denton and Reddish

households, spending approximately £5 million on a range of energy efficiency measures. It also worth noting that Warm Front has carried out nearly 500 benefit entitlement checks in the area, increasing the income of 200 Denton and Reddish constituents by a weekly average of £29.

The scheme aims to assist many more homes, both in this area and across the country, with the current budget set at £959 million nationally for this spending round (to 2011).

### Warm Front Scheme

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints have been received by his Department from customers alleging excessive charges for work undertaken under the Warm Front scheme in the last 12 months. [265991]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department has not previously recorded the total number of complaints in this respect, though procedures have now been put in place to do so.

Presently, data are only available for April 2009, during which time the Department handled 21 complaints about excess charges. The Department will continue to monitor all complaints received.

In view of the difficulties that many applicants were facing in funding their excess payments I announced that the Warm Front grant levels would increase from £2,700 and £4,000 (where an oil system is recommended) to £3,500 and £6,000 (where an oil or new low carbon technology is recommended). This will remove the need for the vast majority of households to make a contribution to the cost of work.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contacts between British and Taliban forces there have been in Helmand Province in each of the last 12 months. [280816]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The numbers of troops in contact events (regardless of the instigator) involving the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and insurgents in Helmand province recorded by Task Force Helmand for each complete month from May 2008 to April 2009 are shown in the following table.

| | *Number of contacts*[1] |
|---|---|
| May 2008 | 60 |
| June 2008 | 80 |
| July 2008 | 110 |
| August 2008 | 200 |
| September 2008 | 180 |
| October 2008 | 170 |
| November 2008 | 200 |
| December 2008 | 220 |
| January 2009 | 180 |
| February 2009 | 180 |
| March 2009 | 250 |
| April 2009 | 150 |

[1] Rounded to 10

ISAF forces operating in Helmand come from a number of different nations, which often operate closely alongside each other and alongside Afghan Army and Police units. The environment in which forces are operating makes it extremely difficult precisely to distinguish between incidents initiated by insurgent forces and those initiated by ISAF.

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment. The Ministry of Defence has completed a review of the data required to answer questions such as this, and has revised the manner in which we classify and present data to ensure consistency.

### Air Force

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the strategic purpose of the Royal Air Force. [281489]

**Bill Rammell:** As the Nation's specialists in the delivery of Air and Space Power, the strategic purpose of the RAF is to safeguard the UK and its interests through the expert delivery of its core roles of control of the air, mobility and lift, attack, and intelligence and situational awareness.

### Aircraft Carriers

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the in-service dates are for the two new aircraft carriers. [280818]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis) on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 766W.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of upgrading naval bases for the new carriers in each of the next five years. [280828]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers will be base ported at Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth and project costs for tailoring the facilities there have yet to be fully determined. It is departmental policy not to publish such costs until they have been approved in the Main Gate Business Case which we currently expect to be around 2012 for infrastructure modification.

There are no plans to upgrade facilities at the other naval bases at Devonport or Faslane for the Queen Elizabeth Class.

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel are stationed at each location overseas. [280813]

**Bill Rammell:** Figures for the number of service personnel stationed overseas can be found in Table 1.1 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 10: UK Regular Forces stationed location. TSP 10 is published quarterly and is available

in the Library of the House. The most recent publication shows figures at 1 April 2009 and can be found at the following link.

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=1800.1&date=2009-05-29&type=html&PublishTime=09:30:00

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of personnel in each army corps are exceeding their harmony guidelines for *(a)* tour intervals and *(b)* individual separated service. [280817]

**Bill Rammell:** The information on tour intervals is not held in the format requested.

The latest available data, as at December 2006, recorded separated service guideline breaches at an average of 10.3 per cent. across the Army. It is hoped that more detailed separated service data will, in future, be provided by the Joint Personnel Administration System.

### Armed Forces: Foreigners

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government have received representation from other governments on the employment of their citizens in the UK armed forces since 1997. [280419]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government have not received any representation from other governments on the employment of their citizens in the UK armed forces since 1997.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints about armed forces accommodation his Department has received from the families of servicemen and women on operation abroad in each of the last five years; and how many complainants were moved into different accommodation as a result. [280597]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Department takes all complaints from service families regarding their accommodation very seriously and has a robust process in place for dealing with them.

This information is not held in the format requested as it is not possible to separately identify those complaints from the families of personnel on operations abroad and how many of these resulted in families being moved.

### Armed Forces: Schools

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests for schools presentation team visits from each service his Department has received in each year since 2005. [280820]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Data regarding requests for visits by Royal Navy and Army school presentation teams are not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Data denoting requests made to the RAF Presentation Team and Inspectorate of Recruiting Youth Outreach Teams are provided in the following table:

| | *Requests* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 137 |
| 2006-07 | 125 |
| 2007-08 | 119 |
| 2008-09 | 139 |

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to expand provision of the Combined Cadet Forces in state schools; and if he will make a statement. [280825]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Combined Cadet Force (CCF) expansion will be achieved on a regional basis where resources allow.

The Ministry of Defence is investigating how we can increase the number of young people who have the opportunity to benefit from the Cadet experience. The Cadet experience is delivered by the four Cadet Forces (the Combined Cadet Force, the Sea Cadet Corps, the Army Cadet Force, and the Air Training Corps). The experience is not just delivered in school-based units, which are mainly CCFs, but also in community based units.

The Ministry of Defence has identified three principles to take forward the development of sustainable Cadet Forces. These are: the need for a coherent, coordinated and sustainable expansion; working within current resources with investigation into additional sources for further funding and; to attract, retain and equip Cadet Force Adult Volunteers to build the Cadet Forces of the future.

As part of this work, the Air Cadet Organisation has already announced plans to increase its cadet numbers by 10,000 by 2018.

The Ministry of Defence is working with Department for Children, Schools and Families, devolved Administrations and others to seek additional funding to further expand cadet activities.

### Atomic Weapons Establishment

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which *(a)* universities and *(b)* other institutions the Atomic Weapons Establishment has developed strategic alliances. [280425]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** As part of its Corporate Technical Outreach programme, AWE plc has strategic alliances with the following four universities: Heriot-Watt, Cranfield, Cambridge and Imperial College. AWE plc does not have strategic alliances with other institutions.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* university departments and *(b)* other institutions receive research funding from the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [280426]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** As part of its Corporate Technical Outreach programme, AWE plc has a number of commercial research contracts with various universities and institutions. These contracts are bound by commercial confidentiality agreements comparable with other commercial arrangements and are between AWE plc and its suppliers, not the Ministry of Defence. I am withholding this information as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Atomic Weapons Establishment's Five Year Strategic Plan. [280427]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The document in question, entitled "AWE Strategic Plan 2008" is an internal AWE plc document. I am therefore unable to place a copy of this document in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280943]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Ministry of Defence provides carbon dioxide emissions data for the whole estate and does not differentiate between offices and other buildings.

The total emissions and emissions per full-time equivalent member of staff are provided in the table.

| *Financial year* | *Total $CO_2$ emissions* | *Tonnes $CO_2$ Emissions per full-time equivalent member of staff* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 1,834,645 | 6.11 |
| 2007-08 | 1,895,879 | 6.82 |

The increase in emissions in 2007-08 is explained by the inclusion of the Chief of Joint Operations estate which was not previously taken into account.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport used for administrative operations by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281035]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions from all business administrative road travel conducted by MOD employees in cars owned or hired by the Department, as reported in the Sustainable Development in Government reports for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are provided in the following table.

| | *Total emissions* | *Per FTE* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 44,363 | 0.15 |
| 2007-08 | 43,700 | 0.157 |

This does not include emissions from MOD officials using their own car for business purposes. This will be included for the areas of the Department where it is available in the 2009 Sustainable Development in Government report.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281036]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Carbon Dioxide equivalent ($CO_2e$) emissions from all business administrative air travel conducted by MOD employees for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08, as reported in the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) Reports is provided in the following table.

| | *Total emissions (t $CO_2$)* | *Per FTE (t $CO_2$)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 9,137 | 0.030 |
| 2007-08 | 38,700 | 0.139 |

The increase in figures between years is due to improvements in data coverage.

### Departmental Electricity

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280945]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information requested for 2006-07 is published in the Sustainable Development in Government (SDG) Annual Report 2007, which can be found on the Sustainable Development Commission website at the following link:

www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications/downloads/sdig_report_2007.pdf

Information for 2007-08 is published in the SDG Assessment 2008, which can be found at the following link:

www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications/downloads/renewable_chp.pdf

### Departmental Energy

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280944]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Department's total energy consumption and consumption per full-time equivalent member of staff is provided in the table.

| *Financial year* | *Total energy consumption* | *kWh Consumption per full-time member of staff* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 6,313,429,656 | 21,039 |
| 2007-08 | 6,222,357,786 | 22,410 |

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of waste his Department recycled in (a) 2006-07 and (b) 2007-08. [281034]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Data on the waste recycled by the Department for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are provided in the following table.

| | Total weight of waste arising recycled (tonnes) | Percentage of the Department's total waste arisings recycled |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 58,827 | 37.4 |
| 2007-08 | 94,220 | 33.9 |

The Department collects data on the amount of waste arisings recycled by weight (metric tonnes) and not in volume ($m^3$) and thus we can only provide a figure for the percentage of waste recycled and not the volume recycled.

The percentage figure for recycling has fallen slightly between the two years, but this is a reflection of improvements in the quality and coverage of our data rather than a real decline in the amount of waste being recycled.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the responsibilities are of each Minister in his Department. [281401]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The responsibilities of each Defence Minister are published on the MOD website at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/People/Ministers/

### Departmental Waste

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281033]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Data on the Department's waste arisings for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are provided in the following table.

| | Total waste arisings (tonnes) | Per FTE[1] (tonnes/person) |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 157,229 | 0.52 |
| 2007-08 | 278,100 | 1.0 |

[1] 2006-07 = 300,070)
2007-08 = 277,660

The increase in reported waste arising between 2006-07 and 2007-08 is due to an improvement in the coverage of the reporting of waste arisings across the Department's activities and an improvement in the quality of waste data. Many of our waste streams are not driven by the number of people we employ e.g. equipment waste, and therefore comparisons on a per capita basis may not be helpful.

### Departmental Water

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of water consumption on his Department's office estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280942]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** It will take more time to collate and verify the information required to answer the question. I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

### Gurkhas: Pensions

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Gurkhas who were stationed in the UK prior to 1997 receive a pension from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [280989]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Whether or not Gurkhas had been stationed for a period of time in the United Kingdom prior to 1 July 1997 had no bearing on their pension entitlement. Gurkhas who were serving on or after 1 July 1997, when the Brigade became based in the United Kingdom, were given the opportunity to transfer to the Armed Forces Pension Scheme, and the majority did so. Gurkhas who left the Army prior to 1 July 1997 were not included in the offer to transfer and remain on the Gurkha Pension Scheme.

A small number of officers who were commissioned from the Brigade through the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst served in the wider British Army on full British terms and conditions of service. These officers receive a pension from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme.

### Internal Security Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies into counterinsurgency warfare his Department has conducted since 2003. [280822]

**Bill Rammell:** The Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (DCDC) and the Service Warfare Centres have conducted over 20 studies incorporating counterinsurgency since 2003 and a list of the main publications is available on the MOD website found at the following link:

www.mod.uk/doctrine

One of the key studies currently being produced by DCDC is Joint Doctrine Publication (JDP) 3-40, 'Doctrine for the Military Contribution to Security and Stabilisation in a Changing World'. The aim of JDP 3-40 is to provide authoritative guidance about the military contribution to the provision of security and stabilisation. This is one of the most comprehensive studies conducted to date and will become a principal guide for conducting joint operations within failing states.

### Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances of damage to the axles of each type of armoured vehicles have been recorded by his Department in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2006. [280823]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of replacing assets lost, damaged or prematurely worn out by the conflicts in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the next five years. [280827]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** For Iraq, work is ongoing to ascertain the final impairment costs of fighting equipment deployed in Iraq, but our previous estimates of the cost of recuperation of assets lost, damaged or prematurely worn out in operations in Iraq is around £300 million. The figure will remain under review and excludes the costs of replenishing munitions.

We are not in a position to accurately predict the forward level of recuperation necessary for the ongoing operation in Afghanistan. These will be dependent on a number of factors, including the size and type of the force in theatre and the operational tempo at the time. In Afghanistan recuperation for equipment and assets is carried out through a program of rolling-recuperation, for financial year 2008-09 costs were in the order of £150 million.

### Korean War: Anniversaries

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements his Department has made to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean War. [281168]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr. Gray) on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 7W.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military and what percentage of each helicopter type in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF are (i) in service and (ii) fit for purpose. [280815]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The numbers and types of helicopters used by the Army Air Corps, Fleet Air Arm and Royal Air Force which are in service, in the forward fleet and considered fit for purpose are detailed in the following table. "In service" has been taken to mean the effective fleet which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. Aircraft in the "forward fleet" are those that are available to the front line command for operational and training purposes, including those that are classed as "short-term unserviceable": aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance, or planned routine fleet maintenance are excluded. Fit for purpose aircraft are those in the forward fleet considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date.

The following figures represent averages taken for May 2009.

| | *Number of aircraft* | | *Percentage* | *Number of aircraft* | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Helicopter Type/ Mark* | *Departmental fleet* | *Effective fleet* | *In-Service* | *Forward fleet* | *Fit for purpose* | *Fit for purpose* |
| *Royal Navy* | | | | | | |
| Lynx Mk3/Mk8 | 68 | 61 | 90 | 26 | 26 | 100 |
| Sea King Mk5 | 15 | 15 | 100 | 7 | 7 | 100 |
| Sea King Mk7 | 13 | 13 | 100 | 6 | 6 | 100 |
| Sea King Mk4/6 | 42 | 42 | 100 | 129 | 16 | 55 |
| Merlin Mk1 | 42 | 42 | 100 | 20 | 14 | 70 |
| *Army Air Corps* | | | | | | |
| Augusta 109 | 4 | 4 | 100 | 2 | 3 | 150 |
| Apache | 67 | 67 | 100 | 44 | 16 | 36 |
| Gazelle | 91 | 42 | 46 | 22 | 20 | 91 |
| Lynx Mk7/9 | 108 | 94 | 87 | 53 | 31 | 58 |
| *Royal Air Force* | | | | | | |
| Merlin Mk3/Mk3a | 28 | 28 | 100 | 19 | 11 | 58 |
| Puma | 43 | 34 | 79 | 25 | 17 | 68 |
| Chinook Mk2/2a | 40 | 40 | 100 | 29 | 18 | 62 |
| Sea King Mk3/3a | 25 | 25 | 100 | 117 | 10 | 59 |

### Military Bases: Northern Ireland

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the future requirements for Defence Training Estate Magilligan will be announced; and what consultation will be undertaken once an announcement has been made. [281532]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** A study is in progress to determine how best to meet the garrison's future training requirements. It is unlikely that any decision will be taken on specific establishments before 2010. Formal consultation with the trades unions will then follow as appropriate but some informal discussions have already taken place. Depending on the outcome of the review other suitable consultation will be arranged.

### Piracy

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is Royal Navy policy to disarm but not detain suspected pirates who have not launched any attack. [281403]

**Bill Rammell:** The Royal Navy will always seek to interdict any vessel they suspect as being directly involved in carrying out or planning acts of piracy, however,

every incident will differ. The decision on whether or not to detain suspected pirates is the responsibility of the UK Maritime Component Commander, based on legal advice given to him in theatre.

If it is considered that there is sufficient evidence on which to charge suspected pirates they will be detained and subsequently transferred to a regional state for prosecution. If, after thorough investigation, there is insufficient evidence on which to charge suspected pirates, they will be released. Any piracy equipment, such as ladders and weapons, which are found will be seized.

The Royal Navy can take robust action to come to the aid of a victim vessel under attack by pirates in international waters. This can range from deterring and disrupting the attack to the use of reasonable force to defend the victims.

### RAF Brize Norton

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received on the recent incident at RAF Brize Norton, in which a TriStar Ascot 833 made an emergency landing and was immobilised on the runway, resulting in a Vulcan aircraft being diverted to RAF Lyneham; and if he will make a statement. [281228]

**Bill Rammell:** It is not standard practice to inform Ministers of routine technical issues that affect RAF aircraft. In this case the Tristar had a problem with its undercarriage which required it to be towed off the runway. As the runway was occupied the Vulcan could not land immediately and instead chose to land at RAF Lyneham.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likelihood of the single runway at RAF Brize Norton being put out of action after the transfer of the fleet from RAF Lyneham; and what contingency arrangements are in place to avoid the immobilisation of the Air Transport fleet in such circumstances. [281279]

**Bill Rammell:** In taking the decision to co-locate the Air Transport and Air-to-Air Refuelling fleets at RAF Brize Norton, it was assessed that these fleets could operate satisfactorily from a single base. In the event of the runway at RAF Brize Norton being unavailable for any reason, aircraft would be diverted to and operate from other RAF bases or, where appropriate, civilian airports.

### Territorial Army

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements have been made for reservists from 33, 34 and 35 Signal regiments of the Territorial Army to continue their duties after the disbanding of their regiment. [281695]

**Bill Rammell:** The Consultation Document given to the chain of command and the Trades Unions on 1 June states that:

"Territorial Army [TA] personnel from a unit/sub-unit that are not to be absorbed into the new order of battle are to be regarded as surplus to establishment and are to be subject to the following provisos:

(a) TA volunteers will not be surplus to the overall TA manning liability and every effort will be made to find alternative employment and arrange for voluntary transfers.

(b) Where candidates for transfer exceed demand, open competition will be conducted by a review board with some limited opportunities for overbearing.

(c) Candidates who are not selected for transfer or for whom there is no suitable alternative employment, are to be offered the opportunity to transfer to the 'Un-posted List'."

No final decisions have been taken on which individual units will be affected by the changes. However, we are committed to supporting all our personnel through this restructuring, which is to be completed by 31 March 2010.

### Trident

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to place before Parliament proposals for Initial Gate approval for the programme to replace the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system. [281475]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** It is not normal for Parliament to be involved in Initial Gate decisions for procurement projects. I do however propose to update Parliament on progress after Initial Gate. The main investment decision point, and the point at which we would issue the main contracts to industry for the construction of the new submarines, is still several years away.

### Warships

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many months and what percentage time each Royal Navy *(a)* attack submarine, *(b)* destroyer and *(c)* aircraft carrier in service spent (i) on operations and (ii) in maintenance in each year since 2006. [280824]

**Bill Rammell:** The following figures are approximate because records held centrally do not always distinguish precisely between routine maintenance and other time spent alongside, since the two activities are often intermixed.

*Attack submarines*

| | 2006 | | | | 2007 | | | | 2008 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Months | | Percentage | | Months | | Percentage | | Months | | Percentage | |
| Vessel | OP | MAIN | OP | MAIN | OP | MAIN | OP | MAIN | OP | MAIN | OP | MAIN |
| Superb | 4 | 6 | 30 | 47 | 1 | 8 | 10 | 64 | 2 | 5 | 17 | 21 |
| Sceptre | 1 | 7 | 6 | 60 | 7 | 2 | 55 | 13 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 73 |
| Trafalgar | 6 | 5 | 45 | 42 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 81 | 7 | 2 | 52 | 11 |
| Turbulent | 5 | 3 | 42 | 24 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 57 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 73 |
| Tireless | 2 | 6 | 14 | 45 | 5 | 4 | 41 | 29 | 3 | 8 | 25 | 64 |

*Attack submarines*

| | 2006 | | | | 2007 | | | | 2008 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Months | | Percentage | | Months | | Percentage | | Months | | Percentage | |
| *Vessel* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* |
| Torbay | 7 | 2 | 60 | 13 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 92 | 3 | 4 | 21 | 35 |
| Trenchant | 0 | 12 | 0 | 100 | 5 | 3 | 39 | 26 | 7 | 2 | 50 | 14 |
| Talent | 0 | 10 | 0 | 78 | 5 | 3 | 39 | 22 | 7 | 2 | 52 | 14 |
| Triumph | 0 | 12 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 100 |

*Destroyers*

| | 2006 | | | | 2007 | | | | 2008 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Months | | Percentage | | Months | | Percentage | | Months | | Percentage | |
| *Vessel* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* |
| Edinburgh | 7 | 2 | 58 | 17 | 6 | 3 | 50 | 25 | 8 | 2 | 67 | 17 |
| Gloucester | 6 | 2 | 50 | 17 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 75 | 6 | 2 | 50 | 17 |
| Manchester | 0 | 7 | 0 | 58 | 7 | 4 | 58 | 33 | 8 | 1 | 67 | 8 |
| York | 8 | 3 | 67 | 25 | 4 | 2 | 33 | 17 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 100 |
| Liverpool | 7 | 3 | 58 | 25 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 58 | 9 | 1 | 75 | 8 |
| Exeter | 4 | 3 | 33 | 25 | 4 | 1 | 33 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 33 | 8 |
| Nottingham | 8 | 3 | 67 | 25 | 5 | 4 | 42 | 33 | 4 | 0 | 33 | 0 |
| Southampton | 7 | 3 | 58 | 25 | 7 | 2 | 58 | 17 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 17 |

*Aircraft carriers*

| | 2006 | | | | 2007 | | | | 2008 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Months | | Percentage | | Months | | Percentage | | Months | | Percentage | |
| *Vessel* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* | *OP* | *MAIN* |
| Illustrious | 5 | 5 | 37 | 15 | 5 | 3 | 42 | 25 | 6 | 4 | 50 | 33 |
| Ark Royal | 0 | 9 | 0 | 66 | 3 | 1 | 25 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 58 | 33 |

HMS Invincible is at low readiness.

Time not accounted for under operations and maintenance include periods of basic sea training, post refit trials, periods of extended leave and other duties such as conducting ammunitioning and storing whilst in port.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy ships are planned to carry a full anti-submarine warfare capability in *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years' time; and which ships carry such a capability at present. [281404]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Most Royal Navy warships possess an anti-submarine capability, which will often be enhanced with an embarked helicopter. In addition, eight of the Type 23 frigates currently in service are equipped to provide a specialist anti-submarine warfare capability and they will continue to do so until replaced by the Future Surface Combatant (FSC). The precise dates of the progressive replacement of Type 23s by the FSC have not yet been determined.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Detainees

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department was first notified by the Governor of Bermuda of the Bermudan Government's discussions with the US on the transfer of four former detainees from Guantánamo Bay; and if he will make a statement. [280865]

**David Miliband:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office received notification from the Governor of Bermuda on 11 June 2009 that the Government of Bermuda had been in discussion with the US on the transfer of four former detainees from Guantanamo Bay. The Government of Bermuda acted outside their competence.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government of Bermuda notified his Department that it had agreed to accept the transfer of four former detainees from Guantánamo Bay before the former detainees arrived in Bermuda on 12 June 2009; and if he will make a statement. [280867]

**David Miliband:** The four former detainees arrived in Bermuda early on 11 June 2009. The Government of Bermuda notified the Governor a few hours earlier that some Muslim Uighur refugees were on their way, without mention of the United States or Guantanamo Bay.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the security assessment of the four former detainees from Guantánamo Bay who have been transferred to Bermuda is expected to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [280868]

**David Miliband:** We are working with the Government of Bermuda and the US to ensure that the security assessment will be completed as soon as possible.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date the Government of Bermuda began discussions with the US administration on the transfer of detainees from Guantánamo Bay to Bermuda. [280869]

**David Miliband:** The Government of Bermuda began discussions with the US Administration on or about 20 May 2009.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the review of the legal basis of the Government's relations with Bermuda following the transfer of four former detainees from Guantánamo Bay is expected to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [280880]

**David Miliband:** We are not reviewing the Bermuda constitution, but in light of the of this case we are reviewing the operation of the General Entrustment which is the agreement that delegates to the Government of Bermuda the authority to conduct external negotiations in specified areas. We expect to complete this by the end of July 2009.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Bermudan authorities on the four people released from the US detention centre at Guantánamo and resettled in Bermuda; and what steps he plans to take on the matter. [281316]

**Chris Bryant:** Discussions are ongoing between the Governor, the Government of Bermuda and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office over the transfer of four former detainees from Guantanamo Bay to Bermuda. We are considering next steps with all interested parties.

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he had discussions with his US counterpart on the recent transfer of four detainees from Guantanamo Bay to Bermuda before the transfer took place. [281591]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** There were no discussions between my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and his US counterpart on the transfer of four detainees from Guantanamo Bay to Bermuda before the transfer took place.

## Departmental Press

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279428]

**Chris Bryant:** The following information is for the month of May 2009, the latest period for which figures are available, and relates to the ministerial team in place at the time.

The Foreign Secretary's private office received the following papers and periodicals Monday to Friday, or when published, at a cost of £589:

*Daily Mail* x 3
*Daily Mirror* x 3
*Daily Telegraph* x 4
*Financial Times* x 3
*Guardian* x 4
*Independent* x 3
*International Herald Tribune* x 2
*Le Monde* x 1
*The Sun* x 4
*The Times* x 4
*Evening Standard (1st Edition)* x 3
*Evening Standard (West End Final)* x 3
*The Economist*
*New Statesman*
*Spectator*
*Private Eye.*

Lord Malloch-Brown's private office received one copy of each of the following papers and periodicals Monday to Friday, or when published, at a cost of £198.90:

*Daily Mirror*
*Daily Telegraph*
*Guardian*
*Independent*
*International Herald Tribune*
*The Sun*
*Times*
*Economist* x 2
*New Statesman*
*Private Eye*
*Spectator.*

Bill Rammell MP's private office received one copy of each of the following papers Monday to Thursday at a cost of £105.00:

*Financial Times*
*The Times*
*The Independent*
*The Telegraph*
*The Sun*
*Daily Mirror*
*Daily Mail.*

Caroline Flint MP's private office received the following papers and periodicals Monday to Friday, or when published, at a cost of £326.70:

*Financial Times* x 2
*The Daily Telegraph* x 2
*The Times* x 2
*The Independent* x 2
*Daily Mail* x 2
*Daily Express* x 2
*Daily Mirror* x 2
*The Sun* x 2
*The Guardian* x 2
*Evening Standard (1st Edition)* x 2
*Evening Standard (West End Final)* x 2
*Economist*
*New Statesman.*

Gillian Merron MP's private office received one copy of each of the following papers Monday to Thursday, at a cost of £46.08:

*Daily Mirror*
*Financial Times*
*Guardian.*

Lord Davies's private office received one copy of each of the following papers and periodicals Monday to Friday, or when published, at a cost of £100.70:

*Daily Telegraph*
*Guardian*
*Times*
*Economist*
*New Statesman*
*Spectator*
*The Week*
*Fortune*
*Private Eye.*

Costs for Lord Davies's private office were met by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279399]

**Chris Bryant:** One special adviser attended the Home Security course which is standard upon entry to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), at no additional cost to the FCO. No other courses have been attended by special advisers in the last 12 months.

### EU Institutions

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on *(a)* democratic accountability of European institutions and *(b)* financial efficiency of European institutions in the last two years. [280745]

**Chris Bryant:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular contact with his EU counterparts on a variety of issues.

The Lisbon treaty will improve the democratic accountability of the EU Institutions by giving national Parliaments a direct say in EU law making for the first time.

In the context of annual Budget negotiations and the discharge process it is the Government's priority to bear down on administration costs and promote sound financial management in EU institutions.

### European Union

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was levied in fines against the UK by EU institutions in 2008. [277093]

**Chris Bryant:** The UK has never been subject to infraction proceedings by the European Commission, and no fines were levied against the UK in 2008.

### Iran: British Nationality

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure the safety of UK citizens in Iran. [281593]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Our embassies and high commissions use a number of channels to communicate information to British nationals. These include travel advice, wardens networks, LOCATE—an online registering facility, the internet and local media.

All of our embassies and high commissions are required to hold a post emergency plan and, where deemed necessary, a civil contingency plan. Our embassy in Tehran holds both. These plans are designed to help our diplomatic missions respond to any crisis they may face, including dealing with consular emergencies, civil unrest or in some cases assisting the departure of British Nationals from a country. All plans are reviewed regularly and tested at least annually and more often if the circumstances in country warrant it. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Consular Crisis Group oversees the review process of these plans.

### Languages: EU Action

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what timetable he has set for publication of the United Kingdom's Fourth Periodical Report on the implementation of policies under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. [280310]

**Chris Bryant:** The UK's Fourth Periodical Report is due to be submitted to the Council of Europe for publication in May 2012.

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 37W, on European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, for what reason the UK's third periodical report on the implementation of policies under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was not published on 1 July 2008. [280348]

**Chris Bryant:** The submission of the UK's Third Report on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was delayed as the Northern Ireland Executive was not in a position to issue its input in relation to matters that had been devolved to the Executive.

### Sri Lanka: Human Rights

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the treatment in Sri Lanka of Tamils visiting Sri Lanka from the UK; what steps he is taking in response to such reports; and if he will make a statement. [280284]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are aware of two British nationals in the camps for internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the issue with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 5 June 2009. The Foreign Secretary was assured that the Government of Sri Lanka was addressing the issue. We very much hope they will be able to return to their families in the UK as soon as possible.

### USA and Canada: Diplomatic Service

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many consular staff his Department employs in its diplomatic posts in *(a)* Washington DC and *(b)* Ottawa. [281633]

**Chris Bryant:** The number of full-time equivalent staff carrying out consular activities in Washington is 33.6 and Ottawa is 1.5.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280971]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The weather-corrected carbon dioxide emissions from the Department for International Development's (DFID) UK estate, as reported to the Sustainable Development Commission, for the years in question are:

| | *Carbon dioxide (tonnes)* | *Per full-time equivalent member of staff* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 4,632 | 2.7 |
| 2007-08 | 4,387 | 2.5 |

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281053]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The carbon dioxide emissions as reported to the Sustainable Development Commission are set out in the following table. The figures include travel arranged by overseas offices, and United Kingdom-based and local staff in these offices.

| | *Carbon dioxide (tonnes)* | *Per full-time equivalent member of staff* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 17,874 | 6.9 |
| 2007-08 | 18,094 | 7.1 |

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280511]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The following is the weather-corrected total amount of gas and electricity used on the Department for International Development UK estate from 2004 to 2009, as reported to the Sustainable Development Commission. We have no Executive agencies.

| | *Electricity* | *kWh Gas* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 6,491,979 | 4,857,635 |
| 2005-06 | 7,099,472 | 4,750,842 |
| 2006-07 | 7,035,022 | 5,121,072 |
| 2007-08 | 6,642,910 | 4,936,358 |
| 2008-09 | 6,093,814 | 4,067,082 |
| Total | 33,363,197 | 23,722,989 |

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280543]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Precise figures are not available for energy efficiency measures and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost. We would estimate that our expenditure in the last two years, and this year to date, were as follows:

| | *£* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 3,000 |
| 2008 | 167,000 |
| 2009 (to date) | 60,000 |

Pre-assessments of expenditure gains (payback periods) and energy savings are estimated before the energy saving initiative has been approved and implemented. Such energy saving initiatives contribute to the Department for International Developments (DFID's) progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) targets. In 2008-09 we achieved a 12 per cent. reduction in our energy used and savings of £72,000 in energy costs compared with 2007-08.

DFID is continuing to look for ways to achieve further energy savings and are currently evaluating the possibility of a Tri-Generation system, the installation of variable speed devices for Air Conditioning and installing a Biomass boiler and Wind Turbine at our office in East Kilbride.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280560]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The head of office services department manages the Department for International Development's environment management team and leads on the energy efficiency agenda.

### Departmental Internet

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1879W, on the departmental internet, how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions were received by the (i) Research and Development and (ii) Developments website in each of the last 12 months. [280765]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** During the period June 2008 to May 2009, the Research4Development website received the following hits:

| | *Unique visitors* | *Page views* |
|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | |
| June | 20,438 | 224,161 |
| July | 27,453 | 268,410 |
| August | 20,576 | 423,137 |
| September | 21,831 | 200,907 |
| October | 20,586 | 160,843 |
| November | 26,765 | 198,895 |
| December | 19,895 | 214,005 |
| *2009* | | |
| January | 24,635 | 225,110 |
| February | 26,608 | 248,223 |
| March | 31,051 | 240,409 |
| April | 31,577 | 516,029 |
| May | 34,978 | 590,852 |
| Total | 306,393 | 3,510,981 |

During the same period Developments website received the following hits:

| | *Unique visitors* | *Page views* |
|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | |
| June | 6,807 | 18,535 |
| July | 6,650 | 27,959 |
| August | 5,300 | 19,678 |
| September | 7,475 | 21,447 |
| October | 10,178 | 31,224 |
| November | 9,327 | 25,358 |
| December | 6,774 | 17,014 |
| *2009* | | |
| January | 9,257 | 23,393 |
| February | 9,587 | 23,841 |
| March | 10,810 | 26,669 |
| April | 9,203 | 20,998 |
| May | 9,412 | 22,468 |
| Total | 100,780 | 278,584 |

### Departmental Location

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on relocation costs for new members of staff in each of the last three years. [280774]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The requested information could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

### Western Sahara: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what development assistance his Department is providing for Sahrawi refugees and internally displaced people in Western Sahara; and whether such assistance is channelled through the Government of *(a)* Morocco and *(b)* Algeria. [281201]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) supports Sahrawi refugees through its 17 per cent. share of the budget of the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and its £19 million core contributions to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) for its work with refugees across the world. In 2008, ECHO committed to provide €10 million to support Sahrawi refugees, while UNHCR spent $3.1 million in their support.

DFID does not provide any bilateral aid to the Government of Morocco or Algeria.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Building Regulations: Energy

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will undertake research into levels of compliance with building regulations relating to energy efficiency. [281240]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department has ongoing plans to undertake research into levels of compliance with building regulations relating to energy efficiency. We recently completed a joint project with the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes (EEPfH) looking at compliance levels for new homes built to 2006 Part L standards. The report has been published at the EEPfH website at:

www.eeph.org.uk

We have also studied compliance levels for non-domestic buildings and for work to existing buildings. A consultation document published on 18 June outlines our proposals to strengthen Part L standards by 25 per cent. in 2010 including measures to further improve compliance and a strategy for further research. The document can be viewed at:

www.communities.gov.uk/consultations

### Council Housing

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 20W, on housing, in which local authorities the schemes are being operated. [281326]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** As at April 2009 Choice Based Lettings housing allocations schemes were being operated in the following local authorities in England:

Adur
Amber Valley
Arun
Ashford
Barking and Dagenham
Barnet
Barnsley
Basildon
Bassetlaw
Bath and North East Somerset
Birmingham
Blackburn with Darwen
Blackpool
Bolton
Boston
Bournemouth
Bradford

Braintree
Brent
Brentwood
Brighton and Hove
Bristol
Broadland
Bromley
Bromsgrove
Broxbourne
Bury
Calderdale
Cambridge
Camden
Canterbury
Carlisle
Chelmsford
Cherwell
Cheshire West and Chester
Chesterfield
Chichester
City of London
Colchester
Cornwall
Cotswold
Coventry
Crawley
Croydon
Dacorum
Dartford
Derby
Derbyshire Dales
Doncaster
Dover
Dudley
Durham
Ealing
East Cambridgeshire
East Devon
East Dorset
East Hampshire
East Hertfordshire
East Northamptonshire
East Staffordshire
Eastbourne
Eastleigh
Enfield
Epping Forest
Epsom and Ewell
Erewash
Exeter
Fareham
Fenland
Forest Heath
Fylde
Gateshead
Gosport
Gravesham
Great Yarmouth
Greenwich
Guildford
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Harborough
Haringey
Harlow
Harrow
Hart
Hastings
Havant
Havering
Herefordshire, County of
Hertsmere
High Peak
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Huntingdonshire
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Kettering
King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Kingston upon Hull, City of
Kingston upon Thames
Lambeth
Leeds
Lewes
Lewisham
Lichfield
Lincoln
Liverpool
Maidstone
Malvern Hills
Manchester
Mansfield
Medway
Mendip
Merton
Mid Devon
Middlesbrough
Mole Valley
New Forest
Newark and Sherwood
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newham
North East Derbyshire
North Somerset
Northampton
Northumberland
Norwich
Nottingham
Oldham
Oxford
Peterborough
Plymouth
Poole
Preston
Purbeck
Reading
Redbridge

Redditch
Reigate and Banstead
Rochdale
Rother
Rotherham
Rushmoor
Salford
Sandwell
Sedgemoor
Sefton
Sevenoaks
Sheffield
Shepway
Shropshire
Solihull
South Cambridgeshire
South Derbyshire
South Gloucestershire
South Norfolk
South Oxfordshire
South Ribble
South Somerset
South Staffordshire
South Tyneside
Southampton
Southend-on-Sea
Southwark
St. Edmundsbury
St. Helens
Stevenage
Stockport
Stoke-on-Trent
Stratford-on-Avon
Sunderland
Surrey Heath
Sutton
Swale
Swindon
Tameside
Tandridge
Taunton Deane
Telford and Wrekin
Test Valley
Thanet
Three Rivers
Thurrock
Tonbridge and Malling
Torbay
Tower Hamlets
Trafford
Tunbridge Wells
Uttlesford
Vale of White Horse
Wakefield
Walsall
Waltham Forest
Warrington
Warwick
Waveney
Waverley
Wealden
West Berkshire
West Devon
West Somerset
Westminster
Weymouth and Portland
Wigan
Wiltshire
Winchester
Wirral
Woking
Worcester
Wychavon
Wyre
Wyre Forest
York

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 383W, on council housing (1) which organisations undertook the external research; on what subjects; and how much was paid to each such organisation; [281527]

(2) on what dates the external research for the review of council housing finance was commissioned. [281594]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The information requested is in the following table.

| *Research* | *Date commissioned* | *Researcher* | *Cost (£)* | *Purpose of research* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Evaluation of Management and Maintenance costs | 2 July 2008 | Housing Quality Network | 44,330 | To determine the costs of running the day to day landlord service (including redistribution analysis and housemark data provision) |
| Review of the Major Repairs Allowance | 1 September 2008 | Building Research Establishment | 50,835 | Analysis of the need to spend on major repairs of the housing stock in order to maintain the Decent Homes standard |
| Tenant Focus Groups | 9 September 2008 | GFK-NOP | 28,898 | Analysis of tenant attitudes towards council housing finance and rents policy |
| Rents Analysis | 2 October 2008 | Professor Steve Wilcox, University of York | 18,500 | A set of briefings and analysis on rents and related topics to inform the HRA review |
| Processing of Tenant Questionnaires | 28 October 2008 | Sharp Research | 8,550 | — |
| Debt Analysis | 19 November 2008 | Tribal | 16,400 | Analysis of the options for dealing with debt in local authority housing. |

Other research expense included ongoing advice from the CLG expert panel and use of the Housing Corporation residents panels through the second half of 2008 totalling around £30,000.

### Council Housing: Castle Point

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority tenants in Castle Point have been evicted from accommodation for non-payment of rent in each of the last 12 months; and what proportion of those tenants had dependants living with them. [280631]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** This information is not currently available.

### Council Housing: Finance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 383W, on council housing (1) what the civil service pay band of each member of the Review of Council Housing Finance team is; [281495]

(2) how much has been spent on the Review of Council Housing Finance on *(a)* salaries, *(b)* bonuses and *(c)* expenses for (i) civil servants and (ii) local authority secondees; [281497]

(3) which local authority provided a secondee to the review; and what the terms of the secondment are; [281525]

(4) what costs related to the Review of Council Housing Finance have been incurred in each of the last three months; [281526]

(5) if he will provide a breakdown of the £186,000 spent by the Review of Council Housing Finance on activity other than external research. [281496]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The pay bands for civil servants from my Department working on the Review are Grade 5 (Deputy Director), Grade 6, Grade 7, Senior Executive Officer (SEO), Higher Executive Officer (HEO) and Executive Officer. The civil servants from HM Treasury are Range E (which is equivalent to Grades 6 and 7) and Range D (which is equivalent to SEO and HEO). All civil servants are employed and remunerated on standard departmental terms and conditions.

The local authority secondee is on secondment from Sheffield city council. The council is continuing to pay his wages and expenses, which are reimbursed by my Department in respect of time spent working on the review. The secondment is on standard departmental terms and conditions.

The £186,000 that was spent on other activity includes the reimbursement of the secondee's wages and expenses to Sheffield city council. It cannot be broken down without identifying these payments, which would breach data protection principles in respect of the secondee.

The answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 383W, included details of review expenditure to the end of March 2009. Details of costs incurred by the review since then cannot be provided without breaching data protection principles in respect of the secondee from Sheffield city council.

### Council Housing: Rents

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 71-72WS, on local authority rents, which local authorities have applied for financial support for reduced rent increases for council tenants; and if he will make a statement. [281328]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The authorities which have applied for and accepted additional subsidy support to reduce rent increases are listed as follows:

Adur
Arun
Ashfield
Ashford
Babergh
Barking
Barnet
Barnsley
Barrow
Basildon
Bassetlaw
Birmingham
Blaby
Blackpool
Bolsover
Bolton
Bournemouth
Bracknell
Braintree
Brent
Brentwood
Brighton and Hove
Bristol
Broxtowe
Bury
Cambridge
Camden
Cannock Chase
Canterbury
Castle Point
Central Bedfordshire
Charnwood
Cheltenham
Cheshire West and Chester
Chesterfield
City of London
City of York
Colchester
Corby
Cornwall
Crawley
Croydon
Dacorum
Darlington
Dartford
Daventry
Derby

Doncaster
Dover
Dudley
Durham
Ealing
East Devon
East Riding
Eastbourne
Enfield
Epping Forest
Exeter
Fareham
Fenland
Gateshead
Gedling
Gloucester
Gosport
Gravesham
Great Yarmouth
Greenwich
Guildford
Hackney
Hammersmith
Harborough
Haringey
Harrogate
Harrow
Havering
High Peak
Hillingdon
Hinckley
Hounslow
Ipswich
Isles of Scilly
Islington
Kensington
Kettering
Kingston upon Hull
Kingston upon Thames
Kirklees
Lambeth
Lancaster
Leeds
Leicester
Lewes
Lewisham
Lincoln
Liverpool
Luton
Manchester
Mansfield
Medway Towns
Melton
Merton
Mid Devon
Mid Suffolk
Milton Keynes
Mole Valley
NE Derbyshire
New Forest
Newark
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newham
North Kesteven
North Tyneside
North Warwick
Northampton
Northumberland
Norwich
Nottingham
Nuneaton
NW Leicester
Oadby and Wigston
Oldham
Oxford City
Plymouth
Poole
Portsmouth
Reading
Redbridge
Redditch
Ribble Valley
Richmondshire
Rochdale
Rochford
Rotherham
Rugby
Runnymede
Rutland
Salford
Sandwell
Sedgemoor
Selby
Sheffield
Shepway
Shropshire
Slough
Solihull
South Cambridge
South Derby
South Holland
South Kesteven
South Lakeland
South Norfolk
South Northants
South Tyneside
Southampton
Southend-on-Sea
Southwark
St. Albans
Stevenage
Stockport
Stockton
Stoke-on-Trent
Stroud
Sutton
Swindon
Tamworth

Tandridge
Taunton Deane
Tendring
Thanet
Three Rivers
Thurrock
Torridge
Tower Hamlets
Uttlesford
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Warrington
Warwick
Waveney
Waverley
Wealden
Wellingborough
Welwyn Hatfield
West Lancashire
Westminster
Wigan
Wiltshire
Winchester
Woking
Wokingham
Wolverhampton
Wycombe

## Derelict Land

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 453W, on derelict land, how many *(a)* registered social landlords (RSLs) and *(b)* local authorities operated land banks in May 2009; what the estimated monetary value of such land held by (i) RSLs and (ii) local authorities was as at 31 May 2009; and in respect of how many such assets is development expected to commence in the next six months. [281396]

**Mr. Ian Austin** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* The Tenant Services Authority (TSA), the independent regulator of the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) sector, does not monitor all RSL land banks on a comprehensive basis. The TSA does not register land banks held by RSLs. However, they do collect information on such holdings of undeveloped land for the larger developing RSLs.

The TSA has been monitoring this type of activity, on a quarterly basis, since January 2009.

Their latest figures, from April 2009, show that 100 associations have land yet to be developed with an overall value of £1.2 billion. They do not hold information on the amount of this land that is expected to be developed in the next six months.

With regard to local authority land, this Department does not hold this information centrally. However, we are working with the Homes and Communities Agency to develop a robust system of data collection so that we can identify and record what housing development is taking place on public sector sites. The Homes and Communities Agency is seeking the help of local authorities in establishing this database.

## Disabled Facilities Grants

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much and what proportion of disabled facilities grant funding has been spent on alternative accommodation during building work in each year since the scheme was introduced; and if he will make a statement; [281164]

(2) what the average length of time between receipt of an application for a disabled facilities grant and the completion of the home improvements funded by the grant was in the latest period for which figures are available. [281165]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The information requested is not held centrally, day to day management of the disabled facilities grant programme is the responsibility of local authorities. Collection of the information requested is therefore a local matter.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the *(a)* implementation and *(b)* management of the home improvements disabled facilities grant scheme since its introduction. [281166]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The introduction of the disabled facilities grant has enabled many disabled people to continue to live independently in their own homes through the provision of adaptations. The programme helps about 38,000 households a year with a variety of adaptations to ease mobility in their homes. An independent review of the programme was carried out in 2004 and a consultation to modernise the programme followed in 2007. The Government announced their response to the consultation early in 2008-09 with a package of changes to improve the programme. This can be viewed on the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/modernisationchangespackage

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the operation of the disabled facilities grant scheme for the purposes of assessing *(a)* the effects on the operation of the scheme of changes in mechanisms for ring-fenced funding of the scheme and *(b)* progress towards the target of completing (i) the assessment by an occupational therapist required under the scheme within six months and (ii) adaptation work undertaken under that scheme within 12 months. [281223]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Following a review of the disabled facilities grant scheme published in 2007 a number of changes were implemented to the programme. Data collected from local authorities will give an indication as to the effect of the wider changes made to the programme such as the relaxation of the grant conditions. The effect of the removal of the grant ring fence is currently being piloted in nine local authorities; a full evaluation of the impact of the removal of the ring fence will be carried out before any decision is taken on removing the ring fence nationally.

Further work is currently being carried out to improve the delivery of the programme with an overhaul of the means test and application form. Data on the time it

takes an authority to deliver a disabled facilities grant are not collected centrally as circumstances will vary from case to case.

### Flood Control

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which agency is responsible for ensuring that the sequential test for flood risk zones outlined in Planning Policy Statement 25 is undertaken. [280428]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The sequential test set out in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), "Development and Flood Risk", is a decision-making tool which aims to steer new development to areas at the lowest probability of flooding. It is the responsibility of the local planning authority to apply the sequential test when allocating land for development in development plan documents. The local planning authority is also responsible for applying the sequential test to applications made to them for development on land which has not been allocated, or which has not been sequentially tested, in a development plan document. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the evidence for their application to allow the planning authority to carry out the sequential test.

### Housing: Regeneration

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Housing Market Renewal funding has been awarded to organisations operating in Copeland. [281341]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Financial information regarding HMR funding is not collected centrally for local authority areas. However, Copeland DC is a partner authority of the West Cumbria Area of Wider Low Demand which was awarded £1.8 million of HMR funding for 2009-10.

### Housing: Rural Areas

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that sufficient housing is built in rural areas. [281338]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In 2006 we published Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3), which requires local authorities and regions to take a positive and active approach to setting housing provision figures for local planning authorities and housing market areas, and adopting targets for the delivery of affordable housing. PPS3 also confirms that local authorities in rural areas can use the Rural Exception Site policy to deliver solely affordable housing on sites which would not normally be used for housing, and for that housing to be kept as affordable in perpetuity.

In September 2007 the Prime Minister asked Matthew Taylor to conduct a review of the rural economy and affordable housing. Matthew's report ('Living Working Countryside') was published in July 2008. This included a number of recommendations on the delivery of rural housing. The Government published their response on 25 March 2009, broadly accepting almost all of the recommendations. We are now implementing those recommendations.

As part of our current £8.4 billion investment from 2008-11 for affordable housing, we have set the Homes and Communities Agency a target of the completion of 10,300 homes in smaller rural communities of under 3,000 people. This represents a real step up in comparison with previous delivery. To date there are forecast completions of over 6,600 units for this period. However, given current conditions, it is too early to predict outputs with certainty over this time period.

### Housing: Standards

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the decent homes scheme in each year since 1997. [273976]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The decent homes programme was launched in 2001. The figures in the table represent the estimated expenditure maintaining the condition of social housing stock, including the decent homes standard, since 1997 from statistical returns submitted by local authorities and registered social landlords.

*£ billion*

| | *Total investment* | *LA* | *RSL* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 1.97 | 1.56 | 0.41 |
| 1998-99 | 2.18 | 1.66 | 0.52 |
| 1999-2000 | 1.86 | 1.57 | 0.29 |
| 2000-01 | 2.19 | 1.81 | 0.38 |
| 2001-02 | 2.66 | 2.12 | 0.54 |
| 2002-03 | 3.08 | 2.35 | 0.73 |
| 2003-04 | 3.31 | 2.64 | 0.67 |
| 2004-05 | 3.69 | 3.18 | 0.51 |
| 2005-06 | 4.10 | 3.38 | 0.72 |
| 2006-07 | 4.19 | 3.31 | 0.88 |
| 2007-08 | 4.15 | 3.21 | 0.94 |
| Total | 33.38 | 26.79 | 6.59 |

### Housing: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were on a local authority housing waiting list in Milton Keynes on the latest date for which figures are available. [280286]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 17W.

### Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has provided to the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government in each of the last three years; and how much has been allocated for each of the next two years. [280851]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Improvement and Development Agency receives Revenue Support Grant (RSG) funding from my Department to provide core services for local government improvement. Additionally we give additional money for specific projects. During the period 2006-11 has/will receive the following amounts:

*Improvement and Development Agency funding allocated*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2010-11 | [1]— |
| 2009-10 | 32,670,000 |
| 2008-09 | 28,730,000 |
| 2007-08 | 30,688,000 |
| 2006-07 | 36,924,000 |

[1] Still subject to consultation and will be announced later this year.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government in spreading best practice amongst local authority housing professionals. [280852]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government (IDeA) works for local government so councils can serve people and places better mainly focusing on partnership working, place shaping and tackling cross cutting issues. The IDeA produces annual reports which highlight their work with councils including local authority housing professionals which can be found at:

http://www.idea.gov.uk

### LLM Communications

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 744W, on LLM Communications, (1) how the contract for the work undertaken by LLM Communications was *(a)* tendered and *(b)* procured; [272538]

(2) what the *(a)* title, *(b)* location and *(c)* branding of each regional housing debate was; and what consideration was given to undertaking this work in-house; [272539]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the terms of reference given to LLM Communications by his Department. [272540]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department for Communities and Local Government provided financial support to the Campaign for More and Better Homes which was a pre-existing cross-sector housing alliance. Campaign for More and Better Homes commissioned LLM Communications as their PR agency to deliver regional housing debates to help raise public awareness of the need for and benefits of housing growth.

### Local Government: Urban Areas

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will take steps to seek the views of those living in the most deprived areas when examining the merits of formal city regional governance in conurbations outside London; [280595]

(2) whether he plans to propose the introduction of formal city regional governance in conurbations outside London. [280686]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Part 6 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, which is currently being considered by the House, provides the legislative basis for economic prosperity boards and combined authorities. These bodies will provide a means for local authorities to pool functions and manage joint activity on economic development and regeneration as well as, in the case of combined authorities, transport issues. They will be entirely voluntary for local authorities and each council will have to give its express consent before it becomes part of one of these bodies.

Local authorities that are considering setting up an economic prosperity board or combined authority will be expected to consult widely when drawing up their scheme for submission to the Secretary of State.

### Multiple Occupation

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to make a decision on whether a change in the Use Classes Order to recognise houses in multiple occupation is required; and what assessment he has made of the extent to which local planning policies would need to change in the event of such recognition. [281589]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department is currently consulting on houses in multiple occupation and possible planning responses. The consultation period closes on 7 August, we will then consider the responses and determine a way forward.

It would be for local planning authorities to determine what changes are needed in their local planning policies in the event of a change to the Use Classes Order.

### Planning Permission

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 141W, on planning permission, what the agreed completion date is of the core strategy of each local planning authority. [279790]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1006W, on this issue in relation to local development frameworks.

### Planning Permission: Wildlife

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to the construction industry of compliance with conditions attached to planning permissions in respect of *(a)* great crested newts and *(b)* bats in each of the last five years. [280860]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** No estimate has been made of the cost to the construction industry of compliance with conditions attached to planning permissions in respect of great crested newts or bats.

### Planning: Retail Trade

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effects on high street retailers of his Department's planning policies in respect of out of town *(a)* retailing and *(b)* warehousing. [280905]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The headline indicator of the success of our planning policies has been the proportion of new retail floor space developed within and on the edge of town centres. CLG planning statistics published in November 2008 show that our town centre policies have shown real signs of success. In 1994 only a quarter of new retail floor space was developed within or on the edge of our town centres. By 2006 this proportion increased to 42 per cent.

It is evident from these data that our town centre policies have halted and partially reversed a long-term trend towards retail development outside town centres.

### Planning: Urban Areas

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on town centre development in the last five years. [280739]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In the last five years, we and our predecessor Department (The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) have published the following national planning policy and guidance on town centre development:

Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS6): Planning for Town Centres (published 21 March 2005)

Planning for Town Centres—Guidance on Design and Implementation Tools (published 21 March 2005)

Looking After Our Town Centres (published 14 April 2009).

On 5 May 2009 we published a consultation draft Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4): "Planning for Prosperous Economies." This new PPS incorporates draft PPS 4: "Planning for Sustainable Economic Development"; PPG 5: "Simplified Planning Zones"; PPS 6: "Planning for Town Centres"; and the economic development policies in PPS 7: "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas". The consultation documentation for the draft PPS and further details about how to respond are available on the Department's website at:

http://wwwcommunities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/consultationeconomicpps

The consultation period ends on 28 July 2009.

### Private Rented Housing: Standards

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to ensure that privately rented housing meets the decent homes standard. [281342]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) is a risk-based evaluation tool to help local authorities identify and protect against potential risks and hazards to health and safety from any deficiencies identified in dwellings. It was introduced under the Housing Act 2004 and came into effect on 6 April 2006. It applies to residential properties in England.

The HHSRS assesses 29 categories of housing hazard, each hazard has a weighting which will help determine whether the property is rated as having Category 1 (serious) or Category 2 (other) hazards. For the purposes of the decent homes standard, homes posing a category 1 risk are non-decent on its criterion that a home must meet the statutory minimum requirements.

Local authorities are responsible for the local implementation and enforcement of the HHSRS. If a property is found to contain serious hazards the local authority has a duty to take the most appropriate action in relation to the hazard.

### Regional Planning and Development: East of England

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department plans to take in response to the recent ruling of the High Court on the East of England Plan; and whether he plans to appeal against the ruling. [281618]

**Mr. Malik:** We are currently considering the court's oral judgment. We are awaiting the formal judgment before deciding on whether or not to appeal.

### Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each region are on social housing waiting lists. [281892]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 17W.

### Supporting People Programme

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records his Department maintains of the ways in which local authorities spend funding provided by his Department under the Supporting People programme. [280751]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Supporting People expenditure data are collected from local authorities annually via the Supporting People Local System (SPLS) used to report data to CLG. The information is provided by local authorities at service level and is aggregated by CLG to produce an analysis of spend for the financial year by authority, region and nationally. Information published is shown by primary client group; for example, by older people with support needs, mentally disordered offenders and service type, for example, accommodation based service, or Home Improvement Agencies. The information by all client groups and service type is available on the spkweb.

Additional information is also available by secondary client group, accommodation type, provider organisation type, service duration and charging type but does not form part of the published analysis.

In addition to the data provided via the SPLS local authorities were previously required under the Supporting People Grant Conditions to provide audited and commissioning body-approved expenditure figures via CLG web-based data collection and payments processing system logasnet (Local Grants and Subsidy.net).

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have used Supporting People funding to provide wardens for sheltered accommodation in the last 12 months. [280752]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The data collected via the Supporting People Local System (SPLS) does not specifically identify expenditure on wardens. However, all of the 150 top tier local authorities have reported expenditure against 'sheltered' and 'very sheltered' accommodation based services which may include warden services.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department provided to each local authority under the Supporting People programme in each of the last three years. [280753]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** £1.693 million, £1.686 million and £1.666 million was paid to local authorities in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively.

A detailed breakdown of Supporting People funding allocated to each individual local authority is provided in the table.

*SP grant allocations*

£

| *ONS name* | *Grant allocation* 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 5,061,217 | 5,415,502 | 5,650,993 |
| Barnet | 7,497,667 | 7,803,452 | 7,803,452 |
| Barnsley | 5,673,232 | 5,673,232 | 5,673,232 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 4,011,947 | 4,011,947 | 3,977,838 |
| Bedfordshire | 7,118,216 | 7,118,216 | 7,118,216 |
| Bexley | 2,984,688 | 3,193,616 | 3,417,169 |
| Birmingham | 51,912,681 | 51,912,681 | 51,912,681 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 6,031,664 | 5,946,909 | 5,649,563 |
| Blackpool | 6,138,533 | 6,568,230 | 6,821,148 |
| Bolton | 9,101,572 | 9,101,572 | 9,101,572 |
| Bournemouth | 11,152,392 | 10,594,772 | 10,065,034 |
| Bracknell Forest | 2,016,121 | 1,964,461 | 1,866,238 |
| Bradford | 19,219,872 | 19,219,872 | 19,219,872 |
| Brent | 12,806,959 | 12,806,959 | 12,806,959 |
| Brighton and Hove | 12,659,223 | 12,464,495 | 11,841,270 |
| Bristol, City of | 27,812,095 | 27,714,131 | 27,009,329 |
| Bromley | 5,428,129 | 5,428,129 | 5,428,129 |
| Buckinghamshire | 5,587,753 | 5,587,753 | 5,587,753 |
| Bury | 6,653,044 | 6,610,689 | 6,360,443 |
| Calderdale | 5,674,656 | 5,674,656 | 5,674,656 |
| Cambridgeshire | 12,168,459 | 11,965,723 | 11,367,437 |
| Camden | 35,723,266 | 33,937,103 | 32,240,248 |
| Cheshire | 20,537,745 | 20,019,592 | 19,018,613 |
| City of London | 698,534 | 694,413 | 681,913 |
| Cornwall | 14,204,036 | 14,204,036 | 14,204,036 |
| Coventry | 15,490,980 | 14,890,394 | 14,145,875 |
| Croydon | 8,951,651 | 8,951,651 | 8,951,651 |
| Cumbria | 9,443,164 | 10,104,185 | 10,104,185 |
| Darlington | 3,825,855 | 3,820,097 | 3,737,103 |
| Derby | 10,556,336 | 10,556,336 | 10,556,336 |
| Derbyshire | 17,260,646 | 17,260,646 | 17,260,646 |
| Devon | 19,337,068 | 19,337,068 | 19,337,068 |
| Doncaster | 11,064,106 | 11,064,106 | 11,064,106 |
| Dorset | 9,665,842 | 9,665,842 | 9,665,842 |
| Dudley | 6,439,067 | 6,484,018 | 6,484,018 |
| Durham | 14,588,081 | 14,588,081 | 14,588,081 |
| Ealing | 11,125,397 | 11,125,397 | 11,125,397 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 4,937,622 | 5,283,256 | 5,625,040 |
| East Sussex | 11,561,210 | 11,561,210 | 11,561,210 |
| Enfield | 11,055,312 | 11,055,312 | 11,055,312 |
| Essex | 29,622,839 | 29,622,839 | 29,622,839 |
| Gateshead | 5,987,723 | 6,406,864 | 6,664,235 |
| Gloucestershire | 24,633,207 | 23,401,547 | 22,231,469 |
| Greenwich | 9,302,736 | 9,953,928 | 9,953,928 |
| Hackney | 22,221,917 | 22,221,917 | 22,221,917 |
| Halton | 7,803,714 | 7,602,565 | 7,222,437 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 12,826,145 | 12,668,832 | 12,035,390 |
| Hampshire | 31,109,951 | 31,009,951 | 31,009,951 |
| Haringey | 21,330,020 | 20,682,294 | 19,648,179 |

*SP grant allocations*

£

| ONS name | Grant allocation 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Harrow | 3,582,678 | 3,833,438 | 3,833,438 |
| Hartlepool | 3,984,694 | 3,984,694 | 3,984,694 |
| Havering | 2,578,536 | 2,759,034 | 2,952,166 |
| Herefordshire County of | 6,523,367 | 6,197,199 | 5,887,339 |
| Hertfordshire | 21,000,881 | 21,000,881 | 21,000,881 |
| Hillingdon | 5,954,047 | 5,954,047 | 5,954,047 |
| Hounslow | 5,525,734 | 5,912,535 | 6,060,344 |
| Isle of Wight | 6,379,804 | 6,142,762 | 5,835,624 |
| Isles of Scilly | 1,846 | 1,835 | 1,802 |
| Islington | 15,934,504 | 15,934,504 | 15,934,504 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 11,170,507 | 10,669,620 | 10,136,139 |
| Kent | 32,024,915 | 32,024,915 | 32,024,915 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | 11,059,567 | 11,059,567 | 11,059,567 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 4,405,694 | 4,405,694 | 4,405,694 |
| Kirklees | 10,593,700 | 10,593,700 | 10,593,700 |
| Knowsley | 7,381,274 | 7,381,274 | 7,381,274 |
| Lambeth | 20,792,197 | 20,792,197 | 20,792,197 |
| Lancashire | 29,052,873 | 29,052,873 | 29,052,873 |
| Leeds | 32,986,531 | 32,986,531 | 32,986,531 |
| Leicester | 15,529,446 | 15,398,432 | 14,688,725 |
| Leicestershire | 7,012,300 | 7,098,383 | 7,126,208 |
| Lewisham | 17,219,829 | 17,219,829 | 17,219,829 |
| Lincolnshire | 21,373,288 | 20,798,681 | 19,758,747 |
| Liverpool | 41,900,943 | 41,124,873 | 39,068,629 |
| Luton | 4,520,292 | 4,520,292 | 4,520,292 |
| Manchester | 38,557,790 | 38,416,502 | 37,395,659 |
| Medway | 5,840,889 | 5,840,889 | 5,840,889 |
| Merton | 3,385,278 | 3,385,278 | 3,385,278 |
| Middlesbrough | 5,982,841 | 5,982,841 | 5,982,841 |
| Milton Keynes | 5,241,687 | 5,241,687 | 5,241,687 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 18,817,689 | 18,121,540 | 17,215,463 |
| Newham | 11,068,502 | 11,843,297 | 12,458,291 |
| Norfolk | 16,336,572 | 16,336,572 | 16,336,572 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 6,145,522 | 6,145,522 | 6,145,522 |
| North Lincolnshire | 3,454,079 | 3,695,865 | 3,866,848 |
| North Somerset | 5,874,185 | 5,874,185 | 5,874,185 |
| North Tyneside | 8,623,570 | 8,623,570 | 8,623,570 |
| North Yorkshire | 15,180,220 | 15,072,880 | 14,734,962 |
| Northamptonshire | 14,256,621 | 14,256,621 | 14,256,621 |
| Northumberland | 7,054,329 | 7,054,329 | 7,054,329 |
| Nottingham | 26,052,630 | 24,749,999 | 23,512,499 |
| Nottinghamshire | 25,705,789 | 24,969,520 | 23,721,044 |
| Oldham | 8,227,686 | 8,227,686 | 8,227,686 |
| Oxfordshire | 18,856,965 | 17,914,117 | 17,018,411 |
| Peterborough | 4,607,583 | 4,930,114 | 5,020,820 |
| Plymouth | 8,213,292 | 8,213,292 | 8,213,292 |
| Poole | 4,944,078 | 4,696,874 | 4,462,030 |
| Portsmouth | 8,921,250 | 8,497,857 | 8,072,964 |
| Reading | 4,935,083 | 4,856,519 | 4,613,693 |
| Redbridge | 4,467,863 | 4,780,613 | 5,115,256 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 2,410,460 | 2,579,192 | 2,759,736 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 2,847,584 | 2,847,584 | 2,847,584 |
| Rochdale | 15,076,659 | 15,076,659 | 15,076,659 |
| Rotherham | 7,567,131 | 7,567,131 | 7,567,131 |
| Rutland | 730,810 | 726,498 | 713,421 |
| Salford | 13,191,145 | 13,191,145 | 13,191,145 |
| Sandwell | 10,580,319 | 10,580,319 | 10,580,319 |
| Sefton | 6,746,556 | 6,746,556 | 6,746,556 |
| Sheffield | 25,227,224 | 25,227,224 | 25,227,224 |
| Shropshire | 6,345,391 | 6,345,391 | 6,345,391 |
| Slough | 4,325,790 | 4,215,339 | 4,004,572 |
| Solihull | 2,778,479 | 2,972,973 | 3,181,081 |
| Somerset | 19,063,308 | 18,258,051 | 17,345,148 |

*SP grant allocations*

£

| ONS name | Grant allocation 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|---|
| South Gloucestershire | 4,674,886 | 4,674,886 | 4,674,886 |
| South Tyneside | 4,947,095 | 4,947,095 | 4,947,095 |
| Southampton | 10,559,245 | 10,145,230 | 9,637,969 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 4,908,331 | 4,908,331 | 4,908,331 |
| Southwark | 18,765,619 | 18,765,619 | 18,765,619 |
| St. Helens | 10,218,473 | 10,174,734 | 9,878,592 |
| Staffordshire | 11,971,701 | 12,809,720 | 13,494,999 |
| Stockport | 8,022,591 | 8,022,591 | 8,022,591 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 2,950,823 | 3,157,381 | 3,378,397 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 5,479,678 | 5,863,255 | 6,273,683 |
| Suffolk | 18,734,394 | 18,444,845 | 17,522,603 |
| Sunderland | 11,263,297 | 11,263,297 | 11,263,297 |
| Surrey | 18,509,347 | 18,509,347 | 18,509,347 |
| Sutton | 3,667,041 | 3,667,041 | 3,667,041 |
| Swindon | 5,397,250 | 5,387,575 | 5,292,578 |
| Tameside | 7,217,707 | 7,217,707 | 7,217,707 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 3,917,442 | 3,917,442 | 3,917,442 |
| Thurrock | 2,375,440 | 2,541,721 | 2,604,713 |
| Torbay | 5,708,189 | 5,600,245 | 5,320,233 |
| Tower Hamlets | 15,384,899 | 15,384,899 | 15,384,899 |
| Trafford | 5,431,885 | 5,431,885 | 5,431,885 |
| Wakefield | 6,967,057 | 7,007,331 | 7,007,331 |
| Walsall | 7,067,337 | 7,067,337 | 7,067,337 |
| Waltham Forest | 7,882,823 | 8,434,621 | 8,859,269 |
| Wandsworth | 11,177,258 | 11,177,258 | 11,177,258 |
| Warrington | 7,611,086 | 7,373,419 | 7,004,748 |
| Warwickshire | 10,146,789 | 10,146,789 | 10,146,789 |
| West Berkshire | 5,408,772 | 5,138,333 | 4,881,417 |
| West Sussex | 15,049,327 | 15,049,327 | 15,049,327 |
| Westminster | 17,051,638 | 17,051,638 | 17,051,638 |
| Wigan | 7,626,132 | 8,159,961 | 8,731,159 |
| Wiltshire | 8,174,934 | 8,174,934 | 8,174,934 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 1,723,056 | 1,723,056 | 1,723,056 |
| Wirral | 10,341,400 | 10,341,400 | 10,341,400 |
| Wokingham | 1,609,880 | 1,609,880 | 1,609,880 |
| Wolverhampton | 7,997,826 | 7,997,826 | 7,997,826 |
| Worcestershire | 14,984,323 | 14,984,323 | 14,984,323 |
| York | 8,268,239 | 7,854,827 | 7,462,086 |
| Total | 1,693,339,796 | 1,685,987,604 | 1,665,990,230 |

*Note:*
Information taken from published and internal sources

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from the Supporting People scheme his Department has allocated to Handyperson schemes in each of the last three years. [280483]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Supporting People programme is administered at the local level by the relevant administering authority. It is for the authority to decide which services to fund, informed by the local needs and priorities identified in their five year Supporting People Strategies.

The following table sets out how much local authorities spent from their Support People allocation, on Home Improvement Agencies, to deliver services including handypersons services at the local level.

*Spend reported Home Improvement Agencies*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 15.414 |
| 2007-08 | 17.832 |

A 2008 Survey of funding sources for HIA handyperson services by their national body, Foundations, estimated that the Supporting People contribution for Handyperson services only to be approximately £900,000.

### Tenant Services Authority: Complaints

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints the Tenant Services Authority has received about the quality of its service in each month since its establishment. [280296]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The TSA has a three-stage complaints procedure. The first two stages are internal, following which the applicant may request an independent review with the Independent Complaints Reviewer[1] (stage 3).

The following table shows the number of cases that have been considered under the TSA's formal complaints procedures. The table shows the concluded cases in each

month from December to May. This includes the number of individual complainants who may have raised more than one complaint.

[1] The Independent Complaints Reviewer (ICR) investigates complaints made by members of the public, businesses, professional advisers and others. Find further information at:

http://www.icrev.org.uk/icr_about.shtml

| | *Stage 1* | *Stage 2* | *Stage 3* |
|---|---|---|---|
| December | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| January | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| February | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| March | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| April | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| May | 0 | 3 | 0 |

### Tenant Services Authority: Pay

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the staffing budget of the Tenant Services Authority is for 2009-10. [280308]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** For 2009-10, the staffing budget for the Tenant Services Authority is £15.3 million.

## TREASURY

### Banks: Finance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of the Government guarantee scheme for asset-backed securities; and if he will make a statement. [280634]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** In the 2009 Budget, the Government announced that the asset-backed securities guarantee scheme is available for banks and building societies to use alongside the existing credit guarantee scheme, to support their lending to the economy:

http://budget.treasury.gov.uk

The Government will keep the operation of the scheme under review, though it is too early to assess its impact.

### Banks: Government Securities

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons his Department determined that *(a)* bonds held by the Government in Bradford and Bingley would be ranked above Bradford and Bingley subordinated bondholders and *(b)* bonds held by the Government in Northern Rock would be ranked below Northern Rock subordinated bondholders; and if he will make a statement. [281639]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Mansfield (Mr. Meale) on 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 323W.

### Bradford and Bingley

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons Bradford and Bingley was taken into public ownership; when the plans for such action were drawn up; and on what date the decision was taken to put such plans into effect. [281640]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Wyre Forest (Dr. Taylor) on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 365W.

### Child Benefit

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the annual cost to his Department of the cost of child benefit if payment were restricted to households with an annual income of up to *(a)* £58,000 and *(b)* £50,000. [275141]

**Mr. Timms:** The estimated annual costs of child benefit payments restricted to annual household income up to £58,000 and £50,000 are £10.40 billion and £9.91 billion in 2009-10, respectively.

### Coastal Change Fund

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Coastal Change Fund will have a Barnett consequential. [281400]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Coastal Change Fund is being funded from within existing DEFRA provision on which the devolved Administrations have already received Barnett consequentials in the CSR.

### Council Tax

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to assess the effect on the expenditure from the public purse for administration of the collection of local taxation of the replacement of council tax with a local income tax. [281103]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Government have no current plans to assess the cost of replacing council tax with a local income tax.

### Council Tax: Valuation

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Valuation Office Agency's council tax banding support tool became operational for the whole of England; what the cost of the project to develop the tool was; and which external organisations were engaged to support the development process. [280015]

**Mr. Timms:** The Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) council tax banding support tool was developed with assistance from CapGemini, SAS and Cole Layer Trumble/ Tyler Technologies and delivered within budget, at £995,000. It was first made available within the VOA on 27 March 2008. After this date, it was brought into use on a phased basis, following appropriate training.

### Debt Collection: Private Sector

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to monitor the practices of private debt collection firms contracted by HM Revenue and Customs. [280892]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is currently undertaking a small scale six month pilot exercise involving the use of private sector debt collection

agencies at some stages in the pursuit and recovery of some debts. The contracts in place for the trial are being closely monitored. They require the debt collection agencies to maintain the same standards as HMRC with provision for the Department to audit and assure this.

### Debts: NHS

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology his Department uses to account for the *(a)* actual and *(b)* potential debt of NHS trusts and foundation trusts. [281108]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Minister of State for Health on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 118W.

### Departmental Cleaning Services

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations provided cleaning services to his Department in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each such contract was in each such year. [280759]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Soft services are provided in 1 Horse Guards Road as part of a PFI contract with Exchequer Partnership (EP). OCS delivers the cleaning element of those services.

The soft services are currently being market tested by EP and it would be inappropriate to disclose details of pay rates at this time.

In Norwich, cleaning services are undertaken by Mitie Facilities Services Ltd. Cleaning cost for the past three years were:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 124,546.32 |
| 2007-08 | 128,282.71 |
| 2008-09 | 132,131.19 |

### Departmental Energy

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the water consumption on his Department's office estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [280926]

(2) what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [280927]

(3) what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [280928]

(4) what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280929]

(5) what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [281026]

(6) what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport used for administrative operations by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [281027]

(7) what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281028]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Treasury is committed to improving its environmental performance in the use of resources and to reducing its energy use year on year.

Detailed information on the Treasury Group's sustainable performance by building for the years in question were published in HM Treasury's departmental report for 2007-08 (Cm 7408). Updates on progress will be provided annually.

### Departmental Internet

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 585W, on the departmental internet, how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions each website received in each of the last 12 months. [280768]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Figures for unique visitors and page impressions for each website maintained by the Department in each of the last 12 months are given in the following tables. Statistics for some of the sites are unavailable due to the migration of sites to centrally hosted servers in October 2008.

| | *March 2008* | | *April 2008* | | *May 2008* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Visitors* | *Impressions* | *Visitors* | *Impressions* | *Visitors* | *Impressions* |
| www.hm-treasury.gov.uk | 266,462 | 7,306,670 | 236,654 | 6,134,432 | 222,414 | 6,075,907 |
| www.isb.gov.uk | 5,136 | [1]— | 5,395 | [1]— | 6249 | [1]— |
| www.ges.gov.uk | 5,505 | 17787 | 5,380 | 18,437 | 4,805 | 14,573 |
| www.qsr.gov.uk | 17,065 | 59,931 | 25,158 | 90,451 | 27,236 | 90,843 |
| www.euro.gov | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| www.financial-reporting.gov.uk | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| http://thegfp.treasury.gov.uk | — | — | — | — | 2,003 | 8,296 |

| | June 2008 | | July 2008 | | August 2008 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Visitors | Impressions | Visitors | Impressions | Visitors | Impressions |
| www.hm-treasury.gov.uk | 212,796 | 5,967,453 | 164,583 | 6,205,519 | 126,319 | 5,675,683 |
| www.isb.gov.uk | 6,369 | [1]— | 4,574 | [1]— | 3,796 | [1]— |
| www.ges.gov.uk | 4,786 | 14,005 | 4,183 | 18,398 | 3,829 | 18,727 |
| www.qsr.gov.uk | 23,082 | 89,163 | 20,547 | 94,688 | 17,065 | 88,250 |
| www.euro.gov | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| www.financial-reporting.gov.uk | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| http://thegfp.treasury.gov.uk | 822 | 8,672 | 684 | 9,063 | 1,596 | 8,485 |

| | September 2008 | | October 2008 | | November 2008 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Visitors | Impressions | Visitors | Impressions | Visitors | Impressions |
| www.hm-treasury.gov.uk | 80,548 | 6,139,875 | 465,585 | 3,002,734 | 245,986 | 1,420,116 |
| www.isb.gov.uk | 2,092 | [1]— | 4,235 | [1]— | 4,506 | [1]— |
| www.ges.gov.uk | 6,182 | 21,403 | 9,060 | 32,635 | 6,208 | 20,211 |
| www.qsr.gov.uk | 12,119 | 62,9461 | 9,583 | 151,681 | 9,269 | 119,145 |
| www.euro.gov | — | — | 17,541 | 127,867 | 16,301 | 89,206 |
| www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk | — | — | 985 | 24,367 | 353 | 9,254 |
| www.financial-reporting.gov.uk | — | — | 4,463 | 61,631 | 4,634 | 41,227 |
| http://thegfp.treasury.gov.uk | 1,882 | 8,750 | 2,067 | 9,292 | 2,361 | 9,999 |

| | December 2008 | | January 2009 | | February2009 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Visitors | Impressions | Visitors | Impressions | Visitors | Impressions |
| www.hm-treasury.gov.uk | 142,120 | 708,403 | 173,607 | 891,939 | 152,542 | 871,393 |
| www.isb.gov.uk | 3,413 | [1]— | 3,800 | [1]— | 3,973 | [1]— |
| www.ges.gov.uk | 4,860 | 15,645 | 7,854 | 24,154 | 7,801 | 25,505 |
| www.qsr.gov.uk | 8,324 | 123,970 | 9379 | 143,996 | 8,851 | 147,642 |
| www.euro.gov | 17,032 | 88,416 | 20,906 | 109,079 | 15,472 | 97,093 |
| www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk | 1,022 | 9,727 | 1,173 | 17,868 | 1,156 | 20,779 |
| www.financial-reporting.gov.uk | 3,439 | 37,378 | 3,709 | 53,637 | 2,879 | 53,590 |
| http://thegfp.treasury.gov.uk | 1,375 | 6,922 | 1,898 | 8,996 | 1,750 | 8,167 |

| | March 2009 | | April 2009 | | May 2009 | | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Visitors | Impressions | Visitors | Impressions | Visitors | Impressions | |
| www.hm-treasury.gov.uk | 188,040 | 971,767 | 281,589 | 1,427,205 | 161,022 | 72,2752 | — |
| www.isb.gov.uk | 5,669 | [1]— | 4,738 | [1]— | 5,320 | — | — |
| www.ges.gov.uk | 5,940 | 20,044 | 5,263 | 16,974 | 4,249 | 13,822 | — |
| www.qsr.gov.uk | 10,778 | 162,877 | — | — | — | — | See note 2 |
| www.euro.gov | 17,044 | 98,978 | 14,322 | 76,499 | 9,057 | 41,144 | See note 3 |
| www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk | 1,407 | 16,957 | 1,031 | 14,736 | 1155 | 14,016 | As above |
| www.financial-reporting.gov.uk | 3,174 | 55,191 | 2,775 | 47,909 | 2,732 | 47,255 | As above |
| http://thegfp.treasury.gov.uk | 2,696 | 11,568 | 2,330 | 9,807 | 77 | 281 | — |

[1] Unavailable.

*Notes:*

2 GSR website migrated to the Civil Service website on 1 April 2009

3 Statistics only available from October 2008

## Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281086]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The number of laptop computers belonging to the Treasury and its agencies that have been lost or stolen in the last five years is as follows:

| Deptl Agency | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HM Treasury | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| OGC[1] | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| DMO | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

1 Data for OGC prior to 2007 is no longer available

The encryption of laptops used by the Treasury and its agencies since 2008 has significantly reduced the risk of data/information loss.

### Departmental Surveys

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest staff satisfaction survey for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* each of its agencies and *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs. [279258]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Treasury last undertook a staff satisfaction survey in December 2008. A summary of the results from this survey has been placed in the Library.

A copy of the February 2009 OGC staff survey has been placed in the Library.

The UK Debt Management Office has not run a staff satisfaction survey since November 2003.

The latest engagement survey for HMRC took place in February 2009. The results were published on the HMRC website on the 20 May 2009 and can be accessed via:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

### Equitable Life

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the report of the Select Committee on Public Administration on Equitable Life. [281111]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Government responded to the Committee's report on 19 May.

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the most recent report of the parliamentary ombudsman on Equitable Life. [281114]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Government regret that the parliamentary ombudsman felt it was necessary to lay her further report but stands by the response to her main report it made on 15 January 2009. The Government are now working to deliver the ex gratia payments scheme it has announced as quickly as possible.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date Mr. Simon Bor was seconded from his Department to assist Sir John Chadwick's inquiry into the Equitable Life ex-gratia payment scheme. [281600]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It would not be appropriate for the Government to comment on junior officials' employment details.

All secondments involving Treasury staff are carried out in accordance with the civil service code.

### Financial Ombudsman Service

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the adequacy of the resources available to the Financial Ombudsman Service to deal with present levels of demand. [280904]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) is operationally independent of Government. The steps taken by the FOS to deal with the demands it faces are detailed in its corporate plan and budget 2009-10 published in March 2009. The Financial Services authority (FSA) approves the budget of the FOS and has a duty to ensure that the FOS is at all times capable of exercising its functions.

### Government Departments: ICT

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance the Office of Government Commerce's Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement has provided on environmental criteria for government ICT procurement; and if he will make a statement. [269760]

**Ian Pearson:** The Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement (CESP) guidance on environmental criteria for Government ICT procurement is outlined in the 'Quick Win' product specifications, which can be found on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/what/priority/consumptionproduction/quickWins/index.htm

The guidance is based on the Greening Government ICT Strategy published in July 2008:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/cio/greening_government_ict

### Health Service Ombudsman

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the evidence given by the Health Service Ombudsman to the Public Bill Committee on the Health and Social Care Bill, Session 2007-08, what the outcome was of discussions between his Department and the Ombudsman on the additional funding required by the Ombudsman for her new role in the NHS complaints process. [281106]

**Mr. Byrne:** The additional funding required by the Ombudsman in 2009-10 has been sanctioned.

### Lord Paul

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times Lord Paul of Marylebone has visited No. 11 Downing Street on matters related to his Department's responsibilities in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [281960]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Members: Correspondence

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter of 2 February 2009, ref 3/08735/2009, on value added tax from the hon. Member for Congleton on behalf of her constituent Mr Carl Hammonds. [280714]

**Mr. Timms:** I have replied to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter of 29 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Banff

and Buchan on the closure of the Peterhead HM Revenue and Customs office. [280796]

**Mr. Timms:** A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 2 March 2009.

### Private Finance Initiative

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of assisting private finance initiative projects through (i) its Infrastructure Finance Unit and (ii) direct funding from the public purse. [280901]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government believe it is vital to get infrastructure projects under way as swiftly as possible—to support jobs and the economy this year as well as delivering important public services. Switching to alternative procurement methods or conventional funding for these projects at this late stage would incur significant additional delays or risk projects failing. For these reasons we have decided that providing additional debt finance is the most effective way to get construction underway swiftly and support jobs now.

### Private Finance Initiative: Derbyshire

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of private finance initiatives in *(a)* West Derbyshire constituency and *(b)* Derbyshire. [280872]

**Ian Pearson:** All local authority PFI projects seeking PFI credits are subject to an assessment by the Projects Review Group (PRG), which is chaired by HM Treasury.

Minutes of the PRG meetings held in 2008 and 2009 can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_projectreview group.htm

A list of all signed PFI projects can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

### Sri Lanka: International Assistance

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1328W, on Sri Lanka: international assistance, when he expects the International Monetary Fund to present a programme for Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [280683]

**Mr. Timms:** The International Monetary Fund has not yet presented a programme for Sri Lanka and the UK has not been asked to vote on a programme yet.

Once a programme is presented, it will be assessed on its merits and the situation on the ground in Sri Lanka to decide whether it will help the people of Sri Lanka.

### Tax Credit: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents of Peterborough constituency are in receipt of tax credits; and what the average level of tax credit payment to such residents was in the last 12 months. [281700]

**Mr. Timms:** The latest information on the number of recipient families benefiting from tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, is given in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) snapshot publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2009".

Information on average annual entitlements by each parliamentary constituency, based on incomes and final family circumstances in 2006-07, is produced in the HMRC publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses. 2006-07". These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Information for 2007-08 is not yet available at parliamentary constituency level. Further information can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tc-delay-07-08.htm

### Tax Evasion

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff administered the provisions of anti-tax avoidance legislation *(a)* in 2007, *(b)* in 2008 and *(c)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [281659]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff use whatever parts of the tax code are relevant to help people and businesses pay the right amount of tax and, where necessary, to tackle tax avoidance, evasion and fraud. HMRC is unable to provide information regarding the specific number of resources deployed on the separate elements of that work.

### Tax Evasion: ICT

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has commissioned on the effect of the provisions on IR35 on the IT contractor sector in the last five years. [281694]

**Ian Pearson:** The intermediaries legislation also known as IR35 is not targeted at any particular occupation or business sector. It is anti avoidance legislation which prevents workers, who are providing their services under what would otherwise be considered employment terms, being able to pay less income tax and national insurance contributions (NICs) by providing their services through intermediaries, most commonly limited companies.

The legislation seeks to ensure that what is properly employment income is subject to income tax and NICs as such.

### Taxation: Members

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans HM Revenue and Customs has to enable hon. Members to submit tax returns online. [277780]

**Mr. Timms:** The vast majority of self-assessment (SA) taxpayers can take advantage of HM Revenue and Customs' online services to file their tax return via the internet. However, a small proportion of SA taxpayers (including Members of Parliament) need to complete special dedicated pages. These forms are not available online since it would be disproportionately costly to develop the links to departmental computer systems.

### VAT: Repairs and Maintenance

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 54W, on value added tax: repairs and maintenance, if he will reduce to five per cent. the rate of value added tax applicable to the maintenance and repair of listed buildings. [281734]

**Mr. Timms:** VAT is a broad-based tax upon consumption and although the Government continue to keep the impact of VAT on all building work under review, it only applies reduced VAT rates where it believes these would provide well-targeted and cost-effective support for its policy objectives.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provision there is for tax credits for those between 18 and 24 years old without children. [281440]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Dundee, West (Mr. McGovern), on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 422W.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Islington

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents of Islington North constituency are in receipt of tax credits; and what the average tax credit payment to such residents was in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [281474]

**Mr. Timms:** The latest information on the number of recipient families benefiting from tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, is available in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2009".

For the average amount paid, information on average annual entitlements by each parliamentary constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes in 2006-07, is produced in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses. 2006-07". All of these publications are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Information for 2007-08 is not yet available at parliamentary constituency level. More information can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tc-delay-07-08.htm

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to answer question *(a)* 279978 and *(b)* 279979, tabled on 10 June 2009, on the Asset Protection Scheme; [281280]

(2) when he plans to answer question 279981, tabled on 10 June 2009, on public sector contracting. [281282]

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question *(a)* 279857 and *(b)* 279858, tabled on 10 June 2009, on road fuel duty. [281291]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The former Exchequer Secretary replied to the hon. Members within the parliamentary deadline.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 279980, tabled on 10 June 2009, on Northern Rock. [281281]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Economic Secretary replied to the hon. Member within the parliamentary deadline.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Departmental Electricity

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280961]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families makes an annual report to the Sustainable Development Commission on electricity sourced from renewables as part of its returns for the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report.

From the 2007 and 2008 SDiG Reports—available in full under "Publications" at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/

—electricity sourced from renewables for the office estate was reported as *(a)* 8.9 per cent. in 2006-07 and *(b)* 16.4 per cent. in 2007-08.

### Departmental Energy

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280960]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families makes an annual report to the Sustainable Development Commission on energy consumed per full-time equivalent as part of their returns for the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report.

From the 2007 and 2008 SDiG Reports (available in full under "Publications" at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/

—energy consumed per full-time equivalent for the office estate was *(a)* 5,187 kWh in 2006-07 and *(b)* 4,255 kWh in 2007-08.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many laptop computers belonging to his Department and its predecessor have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281068]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The number of laptop computers reported as lost or stolen in the last five years are as follows:

| | *Number lost or stolen* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 6 |
| 2007-08 | 13 |
| 2006-07 | 9 |
| 2005-06 | 19 |
| 2004-05 | 37 |

### Departmental Water

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of water consumption on his Department's office estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280958]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families makes an annual report to the Sustainable Development Commission on water consumption as part of their returns for the annual Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report.

From the 2006 and 2007 SDiG Reports—available in full under "Publications" at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/

—water consumption for the office estate was reported as *(a)* 61,569 m3 in 2005-06 and *(b)* 66,145 m3 in 2006-07 which equated to *(a)*(ii) 10.2m3 per full-time equivalent and *(b)*(ii) 10.9 m3 per full-time equivalent.

### Extracurricular Activities: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* out-of-school and *(b)* holiday play schemes for children there were in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each of the last five years. [281852]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not available by parliamentary constituency. Data were collected at local authority level only. Table 1 shows the number of out-of-school clubs in Essex in each of the last five years for which data were collected. The last year that Ofsted collected this information was 2008. Information on the number of holiday play schemes is not available as Ofsted do not collect these data.

*Table 1: Number[1, 2] of out of school clubs for children under eight years of age, position at 31 March each year*

| | *Essex local authority area* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 200 |
| 2005 | 200 |
| 2006 | 200 |
| 2007 | 200 |
| 2008 | 200 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted.

Ofsted has collected information on the number of registered child care places available to children aged eight and under on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, March 2009", which is available on their website:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Registered-childcare-providers-and-places-in-England-December-2008-onwards

### School Meals

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has evaluated for benchmarking purposes on comparative nutritional standards in school meals in EU member states. [281242]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The School Food Trust has conducted research to examine school meal provision (including nutritional standards) in England and other Western European Countries—Harper and Wells, 2007, School meal provision in England and other Western European Countries: a review:

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/UploadDocs/Library/Documents/sft_school_meals_review.pdf

The report revealed that England has the most comprehensive school food standards when compared with leading countries in Europe, as well as the US, Canada and Australia.

### Schools: Admissions

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to *(a)* schools and *(b)* local education authorities on the methodology to be used in calculating distances from home to school (a) on foot and (b) by road for the purposes of determining eligibility for school admissions. [281534]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The School Admissions Code requires admission authorities to explain clearly in their admission arrangements how the distance between the school and the child's home will be measured.

It is for schools or local authorities to determine the method of calculating such distances, although the system used must be

"reliable and reasonable system which parents can easily understand".

### Science: GCSE

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils who achieved a GCSE in both core science and additional applied science were educated in the *(a)* maintained mainstream and *(b)* independent sector in each year since 2007. [278957]

**Mr. Coaker:** In 2008, of the pupils at the end of key stage 4 who achieved a GCSE in both Core Science and Additional Applied Science, 47,767 (99.5 per cent.) were educated in the maintained mainstream sector and 185 (0.4 per cent. were educated in the independent sector.

Core Science and Additional Applied Sciences GCSEs were first introduced for teaching in 2006. There were no entries for students taking both qualifications in 2007.

### Social Services: Haringey

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter received by his Department's predecessor on 16 February 2007 arising from an employment tribunal and containing allegations concerning child protection procedures in the London Borough of Haringey, redacting sensitive personal information as appropriate. [245966]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not intend to place the letter in the Library—the letter itself is already in the public domain. It was, however, received by the Department in strict confidence and that confidence remains binding on the Department. The letter covered a statement of case relating to an employment tribunal hearing. This contains personal data relating to a number of individuals, and it would not be appropriate for the Department to make it available.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Climate Change

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department has taken to adapt to climate change in the last two years. [277640]

**Jonathan Shaw:** All Departments are actively involved in the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which aims to help society adapt to climate change. The role of the programme is to develop and provide a comprehensive evidence base including adaptation tools, to raise awareness of the need to adapt, to measure success and to work across Government at all levels to embed adaptation. Further details about the programme's work can be found at

www.defra.gov/adaptation.

In April 2007 DWP commissioned the Met Office to undertake an initial, high level review of the potential impacts of climate change on the policies and operations of the Department. This report was delivered in January 2008, and concluded that there were a number of areas—such as increases in hot weather, and extreme weather events—which could impact on DWP services.

A more detailed review building on this report will be commissioned once the 2009 UK Climate Projections have been published by the UK Climate Impacts Programme later this summer. This will then give DWP policy makers and planners greater clarity of the potential impacts of climate change, covering opportunities as well as negative consequences, and allow them to build adaptations fully into future plans.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in her Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280967]

**Jim Knight:** The following table gives details of carbon emissions from offices in total, and per member of staff.

| | *$CO_2$ (offices) (Kg)* | *Staffing* | *$CO_2$ per head (Kg)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 245,423,298 | 120,277 | 2,040 |
| 2007-08 | 216,519,724 | 110,490 | 1,959 |

As there is no requirement within the targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate to report carbon per full-time equivalent member of staff, we have used for consistency the same staffing figures as used to calculate the water reduction targets. These include an agreed allowance for on site contractors/visitors.

### Departmental Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278724]

**Jim Knight:** Information is a key asset and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of the Government. The Department for Work and Pensions adheres to the Security Policy Framework and the Data Handling Report produced by the Cabinet Office. These provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place measures to ensure tight security.

Information on the number of people disciplined and dismissed for breaches of data protection requirements and inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data are not available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department records cases under the broad heading of disclosure of information but this is not broken down further. The information provided in the table records the number of staff disciplined under the broad heading of disclosure of information in the last 12 months.

| | *Disciplined* |
|---|---|
| Jobcentre Plus | 16 |
| The Pension Disability and Carers Service | 25 |
| Corporate Centre | [1]— |

[1] The Department's policy is not to publish data where five or fewer individuals are concerned because it might be possible to identify those employees.

If staff are found to have been responsible for a breach of data security procedures disciplinary action will be taken for serious or gross misconduct. Depending on the circumstances of the case deliberate unauthorised access to information is classified as serious misconduct which normally carries a penalty of a final written warning. If it is classified as gross misconduct it could lead to termination of employment. Persistent unauthorised access to or use of information is classified as gross misconduct which normally carries a penalty of dismissal.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for her Department's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans she has for future energy efficiency measures. [280547]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DWP receives fully serviced accommodation from its estates partner Telereal Trillium under a PFI arrangement. DWP does not, therefore, have direct responsibility for investing in energy saving measures. However, there is an agreed shared savings mechanism which provides Telereal Trillium with an incentive to invest in such measures.

The amounts invested by our PFI partner, in projects such as water-less urinals, tea-boiler timers, increased insulation, savawatt plugs and lighting improvements, are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 298,511 |
| 2005-06 | 416,705 |
| 2006-07 | 713,404 |
| 2007-08 | 491,000 |

*Note:* The figure for 2008-09 is estimated at £467,000.

The measures are piloted to validate the business case for their implementation before being introduced more widely. Their effectiveness is then further assessed on a financial basis, a year in arrears. DWP is involved in, and agrees, both of these processes.

Future plans involve the continued roll-out of automated meter reading (AMR) and the piloting of voltage optimisation equipment.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of her Department's estate. [280556]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The DWP finance director general acts as senior responsible office for sustainable development within DWP. Improving energy efficiency features within the targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate, and as such responsibility for day-to-day delivery rests with the commercial director.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in her Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280968]

**Jim Knight:** The following table gives details of energy consumption in offices in total, and per member of staff.

| | *Energy consumption (kWh)* | *Staffing* | *Energy consumption/ head (kWh)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 720,001,384 | 120,277 | 5,986 |
| 2007-08 | 620,037,275 | 110,490 | 5,611 |

As there is no requirement within the targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate to report energy consumption per full-time equivalent member of staff, we have used for consistency the same staffing figures as used to calculate the water reduction targets. These include an agreed allowance for on-site contractors/ visitors.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were employed in each section of her Department in *(a)* the Borough of Wyre, *(b)* the Borough of Blackpool and *(c)* the City of Preston in each of the last five years. [279558]

**Jim Knight:** The number of people employed in each of the Department's business areas in the boroughs of Wyre, Blackpool and the City of Preston at 31 March of each year from 2005 to 2009 is shown in the following table:

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Borough of Wyre* | | | | | |
| Jobcentre Plus | 76 | 65 | 59 | 51 | 40 |
| Pensions, Disability and Carers Service[1] | 919 | 854 | 644 | 559 | 381 |
| Child Support Agency[2] | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Corporate and Shared Services | 1,265 | 1,061 | 936 | 793 | 979 |
| Total | 2,260 | 1,983 | 1,640 | 1,405 | 1,400 |
| *Borough of Blackpool* | | | | | |
| Jobcentre Plus | 444 | 470 | 346 | 376 | 435 |
| Pensions, Disability and Carers Service[1] | 2,678 | 2,893 | 2,803 | 2,588 | 2,527 |
| Child Support Agency[2] | 2 | 0 | 144 | 168 | 0 |
| Corporate and Shared Services | 88 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Total | 3,212 | 3,366 | 3,294 | 3,133 | 2,967 |
| *City of Preston* | | | | | |
| Jobcentre Plus | 448 | 523 | 584 | 556 | 527 |
| Pensions, Disability and Carers Service[1] | 1,279 | 1,196 | 1,163 | 998 | 918 |
| Child Support Agency[2] | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Corporate and Shared Services | 148 | 98 | 50 | 62 | 96 |
| Total | 1,877 | 1,819 | 1,798 | 1,617 | 1,541 |

[1] The Pensions Disability and Carers Service was formed in 2008 by the merger of The Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service. For consistency the figures have been combined for earlier years also.
[2] The Child Support Agency transferred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission on 1 November 2008.
*Note:*
Figures shown are on the basis of headcount i.e. the number of individual staff employed.

### Departmental Waste

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the amount of waste arising from her Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281037]

**Jim Knight:** The following table gives details of waste arisings from offices in total, and per member of staff.

| | *Waste arisings (metric tonnes)* | *Staffing* | *Waste per head (metric tonnes)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 22,365 | 120,277 | 0.186 |
| 2007-08 | 21,133 | 110,490 | 0.191 |

As there is no requirement within the targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate to report waste arisings per full-time equivalent member of staff, we have used for consistency the same staffing figures as used to calculate the water reduction targets. These include an agreed allowance for on-site contractors/ visitors.

### Departmental Water

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the water consumption on her Department's estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280966]

**Jim Knight:** The following table gives details of water consumption within DWP:

| | *Total consumption ($m^3$)* | *Staff figures* | *Consumption per head ($m^3$)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1,179,739 | 126,600 | 9.3 |
| 2006-07 | 1,137,368 | 120,277 | 9.4 |

Please note that the staffing figure, in line with the reporting requirements of the Sustainable Development in Government Report, is based on the number of full-time equivalents including an agreed allowance for on site contractors/visitors.

Consumption further reduced in 2007-08 to 8.3$m^3$.

### Digitial Technology: Disadvantaged

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the Benefits Agency applies principles of digital inclusion. [268987]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 21 April 2009]:* I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 974W.

### Disability Living Allowance: Overseas Residence

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many claims for disability living allowance, carers allowance and associated benefits submitted by expatriate UK citizens are under consideration by her Department's exportability team; [280997]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the cost of meeting in full all outstanding expatriate claims for disability living allowance, carers allowance and associated benefits; [280998]

(3) what steps her Department plans to take to comply with the ruling of the European Court of Justice on the payment of exportable benefits. [280999]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department is already complying with the European Court of Justice ruling on the payment of exportable disability benefits.

Approximately 2,100 people who are living in the European Economic Area or Switzerland have contacted the Department in relation to making a new claim or to request reinstatement of an award of disability living allowance, attendance allowance or carer's allowance that had been previously disallowed because they had moved abroad. The Exportability Teams have made decisions on around 1,100 of these cases and are continuing to process the remaining requests, of which there are around 1,000.

We estimate the cost of paying all people who are likely to satisfy the eligibility criteria for payment of the UK disability benefits within the European Economic Area and Switzerland to be in the region of £50 million per year by 2010-11.

### Employment Services: Disabled

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of deaf and hard of hearing people who require effective text or other telephone relay services in order to obtain or retain employment; and if she will make a statement; [277975]

(2) what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of people with impaired speech who require effective text or other telephone relay services in order to obtain or retain employment; and if she will make a statement. [277976]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No such estimate has been made by this Department of the number of deaf and hard of hearing people or those with impaired speech who require text or other telephone relay services in order to obtain or retain employment.

However, through Access to Work, the Department supports employers to ensure that effective text and other telephone relay services are provided where this is the most suitable means of support.

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deaf and hard of hearing people had access to captioned telephone relay services through the Access to Work scheme in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [277977]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No breakdown of the number of deaf and hard of hearing people having access to captioned telephony relay services through the Access to Work scheme is collected by this Department.

However, through Access to Work, the Department supports employers to ensure that captioned telephone relay services are provided where this is the most suitable means of support.

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sign language users had access to video relay services through the Access to Work scheme in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [277978]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No breakdown of the number of sign language users having access to video relay services through the Access to Work scheme is collected by this Department.

However, through Access to Work, the Department supports employers to ensure that access to video relay services are provided where this is the most suitable means of support.

### Foreign Workers

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 570W, on foreign workers, how many national insurance numbers were issued to adult *(a)* non-UK EU nationals and *(b)* non-EU nationals in each quarter between January 2004 and September 2007. [281115]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 5W.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer question 277276, on the Future Jobs Fund, tabled on 20 May 2009. [280677]

**Jim Knight:** The hon. Member's question was answered on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 163W.

### Future Jobs Fund: Culture

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Future Jobs Fund in relation to jobs in culture and the creative industries. [280658]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* The Future Jobs Fund is an important new initiative announced in the Budget 2009 worth £1 billion to create 150,000 new jobs both for young people and individuals living in unemployment hotspots. We are inviting bids from a wide range of organisations and partnerships including those from the culture and creative industries to create valuable jobs that bring real benefits to individuals and their communities.

The fund will be allocated following a competitive bidding process that opened on 13 May 2009. Initial bids from organisations and partnerships wanting to create jobs from October onwards should be submitted by 30 June 2009. After this date, bids will be assessed on a rolling basis with funding allocated around eight weeks before jobs are due to commence. We are unable to make any formal assessment at this stage given that we are yet to allocate any funding to potential employers.

It is important that we help young people and those struggling to find work to move into jobs in growth sectors to prepare them to be a part of the economic recovery. The culture and creative industries will be vital to the United Kingdom's economic recovery and so we are keen that they play an important role in delivering jobs through the Future Jobs Fund. Officials from both the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have been working closely with representative bodies from these sectors to help them put together a strong bid to the fund.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans she has for future staffing levels in each case. [279815]

**Jim Knight:** The information is as follows:

*DWP*

| *Work area* | *FTE* |
|---|---|
| Project Management | 0.1 |
| Legacy Planning | 0.5 |
| Project Oversight | 0.5 |
| Financial Oversight | 0 |

DWP has recruited 0.6 FTE to support legacy planning and project oversight and has no plans to increase staffing levels in this area for the year 2009-10.

*Jobcentre Plus*

| *Work area* | *FTE* |
|---|---|
| Project Management | 3.2 |
| Legacy Planning | 1.2 |
| Project Oversight | 0.6 |
| Financial Oversight | 0 |

Current work-force plans for Jobcentre Plus extend to March 2010 over which period there is no increase expected.

*Health and Safety Executive*

| *Work area* | *FTE* |
|---|---|
| Project Management | — |
| Legacy Planning | — |
| Project Oversight | 3.5 |
| Financial Oversight | — |

Inspection of the Olympic construction activities will be undertaken as an integral part of Construction Division's workload.

*Office for Disability Issues*

The Office for Disability Issues has on a number of occasions provided advice and expertise to Ministers, other Government Departments and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games on disability issues relating to London 2012. It is not however, possible to quantify this in terms of staff numbers.

### Pensioners: Economic Situation

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance her Department is providing to pensioners adversely affected by the economic downturn. [280171]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government are continuing to support pensioners appropriately through the economic downturn. A £60 payment went to pensioners in early 2009, which took the total value of the Christmas bonus this year to £70.

An additional payment alongside the winter fuel payment for winters 2008-09 and 2009-10 of £50 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over. This means the winter fuel payments will be £250 and £400 respectively which provides a significant contribution towards an older person's winter fuel bill.

From April 2009 the pensioners on the lowest incomes saw the biggest increase to the pension credit standard minimum guarantee since it was introduced, taking the standard minimum guarantee to £130 a week for single people and £198.45 for couples.

In order to help those pensioners who receive income from savings and who may have been affected by lower interest rates, the Government will be increasing the threshold in pension credit (and housing and council tax benefit for those who have attained the qualifying age for pension credit) from £6,000 to £10,000 from November 2009, so that pensioners can have up to £10,000 without it affecting their benefits.

The Government have committed to maintain the standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest at 6.08 per cent. for a further six months until the end of December 2009, to provide continued support for homeowners on pension credit who receive help with their mortgage.

The Government are also launching a tax back awareness campaign in autumn 2009 contacting all those in receipt of pension credit to encourage them to claim back tax they may have overpaid on their savings income and, where possible, register to receive interest on their savings tax-free in future.

### Social Security Benefits: Disabled

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were claiming *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* disability living allowance when their primary health problem or condition was alcohol-related in each of the last 10 years; and how many such claimants were (i) under 18 years and (ii) over state pension age in each of those years. [269050]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. For example, the decision for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on the grounds of alcohol related conditions would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the personal capability assessment.

The information for disability living allowance is not collated centrally.

The available information for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance is in the table.

*Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants, by gender and age, with alcohol related disabling condition in each of the last 10 years*

| | *All alcohol related* | *Aged under 18* | *Over pension age* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 33,760 | 20 | 40 |
| 2000 | 36,750 | 20 | 20 |
| 2001 | 39,390 | 10 | 20 |
| 2002 | 41,910 | 20 | 20 |
| 2003 | 44,210 | 20 | 20 |
| 2004 | 46,660 | 20 | 20 |
| 2005 | 48,390 | 30 | 20 |
| 2006 | 49,870 | 30 | 20 |
| 2007 | 52,090 | 20 | 20 |
| 2008 | 53,980 | 20 | 30 |

*Notes:*
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data are at August in each year.
3. State pension age is defined as age 60 or over for women and age 65 or over for men.
4. For the purposes of incapacity benefit only one diagnosis is recorded but an individual may have other conditions that contribute to their overall level of functional impairment.

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

### Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 104W, on social security benefits: medical examinations, how many doctors were complained against under the heading of claimants' experiences. [278704]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Of the 60 complaints received under the heading "claimants' experiences", 41 involved Health Care Professionals. The term Health Care Professional covers both registered doctors and registered nurses who conduct medical examinations on behalf of the Department.

### Vibration White Finger

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many coal miners have retired on medical advice having contracted vibration white finger in the last 30 years. [279042]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The requested information is not available.

### Woolworths: Redundancy

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many former Woolworths employees have been placed into new employment by Jobcentre Plus in each constituency; [279100]

(2) how many former Woolworths employees are claiming jobseeker's allowance in each parliamentary constituency. [279101]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The information requested is not available. Details of previous employers are not collated centrally.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer question 275954, tabled by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 15 May 2009, on 0845 telephone numbers. [278036]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* The hon. Member's question was answered on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 49W.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people began apprenticeships under the apprenticeship programme for 16-to-18 year olds in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England in each year since the scheme was introduced. [275922]

**Mr. Simon:** The table shows the number of 16 to 18-year-olds starting an apprenticeship in North West Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency, Cambridgeshire local authority, the East of England region and England for 2003/04 onwards, the earliest year for which we have comparable data.

*Apprenticeship starts for 16 to 18-year-olds*

| | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NW Cambridgeshire | 230 | 230 | 170 | 210 | 200 |
| Cambridgeshire | 900 | 1,100 | 900 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| East of England | 9,500 | 10,100 | 8,500 | 9,100 | 9,800 |
| England | 107,500 | 112,600 | 99,000 | 105,100 | 107,000 |

*Notes:*
1. Area is based on home postcode of learner.
2. Figures for parliamentary constituency have been rounded to the nearest 10. All other figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
3. Figures for England include those learners with missing postcodes, and home postcodes outside of England.

*Source:*
WBL ILR

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08.

Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

### Apprentices: Merseyside

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people commenced level 2 apprenticeships in *(a)* Crosby, *(b)* Sefton and *(c)* Merseyside in each of the last five years. [277734]

**Kevin Brennan:** Table 1 shows the number of Level 2 apprenticeship starts in Crosby parliamentary constituency, and the five local authorities (including Sefton), which make up the metropolitan county of Merseyside.

*Table 1: Level 2 Apprenticeship starts*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Crosby | 190 | 210 | 160 | 200 | 180 |
| Knowsley | 700 | 800 | 600 | 600 | 700 |
| Liverpool | 1,600 | 1,800 | 1,500 | 1,800 | 2,000 |
| Sefton | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,100 | 1,000 |
| St. Helens | 600 | 700 | 500 | 500 | 600 |
| Wirral | 1,300 | 1,500 | 1,200 | 1,100 | 1,300 |
| Merseyside | 5,200 | 5,700 | 4,700 | 5,100 | 5,700 |

*Notes:*
1. Parliamentary constituency volumes are rounded to the nearest ten and local authority figures to the nearest hundred. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Local authority and parliamentary constituency are based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. Programme-led apprenticeships recorded in WBL ILR returns are included in the above figures.

*Source:*
WBL ILR.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004-05.

### Basic Skills: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what basic numeracy and literacy courses there are for adults in Coventry. [272079]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* Numeracy and literacy courses are available across the country. Information on the number of different courses funded in a given year is not collected. FE colleges and providers are given indicative budgets based on the expected delivery of an overall volume of learning. The actual numbers and types of courses delivered by a college or provider will depend on demand.

Literacy and numeracy courses are available in Coventry at different times and venues across the city. This includes embedded provision, whereby learners can develop their literacy and numeracy as part of vocational courses. Learners achieve nationally recognised Skills for Life qualifications in literacy and numeracy and all levels of need are accommodated. Progression to the next level of qualification and to employment where appropriate is supported at all stages.

Bespoke courses for particular groups of learners are delivered by the organisations detailed as follows, including those specifically for; adults seeking employability skills, adults with learning difficulties, offenders on community provision, and family learning opportunities.

City College Coventry—offers embedded delivery across many vocational areas, including; Skills for Life for Construction, ICT, Food Hygiene, Health and Safety, and retail.

Coventry City Council—Adult and Community Learning—Delivery across many outreach centres throughout the City, with a particular focus on Offenders and Family learning opportunities.

Henley College Coventry—delivers embedded courses across a wide vocational spectrum, with a particular focus on Hospitality and ICT.

JHP Coventry—Offers a choice of embedded delivery in vocational areas, and assists unemployed adults to gain employment via the Employability Skills Programme.

The Statistical First Release (SFR) "Post-16 Education: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held" (March 2009) provides information on the number of LSC-funded learners participating on Skills for Life Courses; the SFR can be found at the following link:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrmar09

Table 1 following shows the number of learners participating on Skills for Life literacy and numeracy courses by age group in Coventry local authority in 2007/08.

*Table 1: Skills for life literacy and numeracy participation by age in Coventry local authority, 2007/08*

| | *16 to 18* | *19+* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Literacy | 2,700 | 3,800 | 6,500 |
| Numeracy | 2,800 | 3,300 | 6,100 |

*Notes:*
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. These figures include FE (including learndirect), WBL (including apprenticeships, Train to Gain and Entry to Employment) and Safeguarded Adult Learning.
3. This table uses learner volumes as a measure for comparative purposes. Learners participating in more than one type of course will be counted for each course type they are participating in e.g. a learner participating in literacy and numeracy courses in an FE college will be counted in both of these figures. However, learners that are included in different data collections e.g. FE and TtG, whether that relates to different years or different funding streams, will be counted once for each data collection.
4. Age is calculated based on age as at 31 August of the academic year.
5. Local authority has been based upon learner's home postcode.

### Building Colleges for the Future Programme

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many colleges at the feasibility stage of preparing for Building Colleges for the Future had not submitted *(a)* an application in principle and *(b)* an application in detail; and if he will make a statement. [276888]

**Mr. Simon:** Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the costs of each Building Colleges for the Future project has been met by a grant from the Learning and Skills Council since the programme's inception. [268648]

**Kevin Brennan:** Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested pertains to records held by the council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to my hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in both the Libraries of the House.

### Business Growth

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to stimulate business growth in super output areas with high levels of deprivation. [280736]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department works closely with Her Majesty's Treasury, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Department of Work and Pensions, regional development agencies (RDAs) and with local authorities and others to stimulate business growth in local areas with relatively high levels of deprivation.

HMT, BIS and CLG jointly sponsor, and CLG manages, the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI). LEGI has been allocated £296 million over the 2008/09 to 2010/11 spending period, for targeted enterprise growth in deprived parts of 26 local authority areas. Local LEGI programmes can target very small local areas experiencing high deprivation.

Jointly with DWP, CLG sponsors the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF), which provides £1.5 billion investment over the 2008/09 to 2010/11 period to tackle worklessness in deprived areas. One of the uses of WNF is encouragement of enterprise growth to benefit people in deprived areas.

CLG works closely with RDAs and with Business Link to help ensure that the needs of deprived areas are addressed in their work. Business Link offers a suite of business support products under the 'Solutions for Business' portfolio.

### Departmental Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278732]

**Kevin Brennan:** None.

### Departmental Reorganisation

**John Penrose:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the *(a)* allocation of responsibilities to (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department and *(b)* the administrative changes in his Department consequent on the recent machinery of Government changes to have been completed. [280311]

**Mr. McFadden:** The allocation of responsibilities to Ministers and officials is complete. Administrative changes will be completed as soon as practicable.

## Further Education

**Sir George Young:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State's contribution to the Westminster Hall debate on building colleges for the future, *Official Report*, column 121WH, of 25 March 2009, to which hon. Members the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State has written with an invitation to discuss the matters in detail. [267893]

**Kevin Brennan:** On the 16 January, my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Further Education wrote to 105 Members—listed as follows. The letter was targeted at those Members who had colleges in their constituencies that we were aware were affected by the position of the Further Education capital programme. The letter included an offer to meet with any Members who had concerns regarding further education colleges in their own constituencies.

Prior to 4 March and the Learning and Skills Council national Council meeting, my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Further Education had been in correspondence with 58 Members regarding the position of the Further Education capital programme. On 6 March, following the national Council meeting, my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Further Education wrote to each of the Members, updating them on the latest capital funding position, and again offering to meet with Members who had concerns regarding their own colleges.

A list of those 58 Members will be placed in the House Libraries.

*MPs*

*16 January distribution list*

David Heyes
Eric Illsley
John Mann
Frank Field
Gordon Marsden
Dr. Brian Iddon
Mark Simmonds
Marsha Singh
Ann Keen
David Lepper
Eric Martlew
Martin Harwood
Andrew Tyrie
Christine Russell
Roberta Blackman-Woods
Bob Russell
Richard Ottaway
Alan Milburn
Michael Mates
Stephen O'Brien
Ben Bradshaw
Austin Mitchell
Sylvia Heal
Iain Wright
David Willetts
Andrew Stunell
John Howell
Mark Prisk
Peter Atkinson
Jonathan Djanogly
Andrew Turner
Philip Hollobone
Ben Wallace
Jane Kennedy
Ian McCartney
Alan Meale
Dr. Julian Lewis
Norman Lamb
Henry Bellingham
Sally Keeble
Charles Clarke
Alan Simpson
Dr. Evan Harris
Stewart Jackson
Mike Hancock
Mark Hendrick
Nigel Evans
Susan Kramer
Philip Hammond
Lorely Burt
Stephen Ladyman
Dr. John Pugh
Shaun Woodward
Ms Dari Taylor
Mark Fisher
Lynda Waltho
John Maples
Andrew Mitchell
Jeremy Browne
Mark Pritchard
Sir John Stanley
Adrian Sanders
Dr. Vincent Cable
David Clelland
Mary Creagh
Denis Murphy
John Spellar
David Heathcoat-Amory
Rosie Cooper
Tim Farron
Dr. Richard Taylor
Ian Cawsey
Nadine Dorries
Ian Gibson
Bob Spink
Ian Stewart
Graham Stringer
Desmond Turner
Rob Wilson
Derek Wyatt
Meg Munn
Dr. Hywel Francis

Judy Mallaber
Damian Green
Tim Loughton
Doug Henderson
Paul Holmes
Michael Foster
Khalid Mahmood
Angela C. Smith
Janet Dean
Joan Walley
Tim Boswell
Alistair Burt
Laurence Robertson
John Penrose
Annette Brooke
Dawn Butler
Douglas Carwell
John Heppell
Sharon Hodgson
Paul Holmes
Andy Slaughter
Edward Timpson
Graham Allen
Total: 105

*6 March distribution list:*

Tony Lloyd MP
Stephen Hepburn MP
Stephen Haughton MP
Shona McIsaac MP
Sahid Malik MP
Rt. Hon. Jack Straw MP
Rt. Hon. George Howarth MP
Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson MP
Robert Key MP
Phil Hope MP
Paul Rowan MP
Mike Hall MP
Michael Foster MP
Michael Clapham MP
Mary Creagh MP
Mark Hoban MP
Jonathan Djanogly MP
John Mann MP
John Hayes MP
Jim Dobbin MP
Jeff Ennis MP
Janet Anderson MP
Ian Cawsey MP
Ian Austin MP
Gordon Marsden MP
Frank Dobson MP
Eric Illsley MP
Dr. Richard Taylor MP
Dr. Howard Stoate MP
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Derek Twigg MP
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Austin Mitchell MP
Anne Snelgrove MP
Alison Seabeck MP
Adrian Sanders MP
Rt. Hon. John Hutton MP
Nick Harvey MP
Mark Field MP
Malcolm Moss MP
Eric Martlew MP
Eleanor Laing MP
David Borrow MP
Dari Taylor MP
Austin Mitchell MP
Dr. Tony Wright MP
Rt. Hon. Andrew Smith MP
Joan Humble MP
Alan Keen MP
Total: 58

## Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 580W, on higher education: admissions, what information his Department holds on household incomes of those domiciled in the UK who are *(a)* university applicants and *(b)* undergraduate students. [278872]

**Mr. Lammy:** University applicants are not required to provide details of their household income. However, if undergraduate students apply for means-tested student finance they are required to submit household income details. Complete information on household incomes is not held because some apply for non means-tested support, and household income details are not required for such products.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of young people living in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport entered university in each of the last 10 years. [279762]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest information on the number of young undergraduate entrants from Tameside and Stockport local authorities is shown in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

*Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] from Tameside and Stockport local authorities[3]—UK higher education institutions[4], academic years 1998/99 to 2007/08*

| *Academic year* | *Stockport* | *Tameside* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998/99 | 1,300 | 570 |
| 1999/00 | 1,370 | 660 |
| 2000/01 | 1,285 | 675 |
| 2001/02 | 1,380 | 695 |

*Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] from Tameside and Stockport local authorities[3]—UK higher education institutions[4], academic years 1998/99 to 2007/08*

| Academic year | Stockport | Tameside |
|---|---|---|
| 2002/03 | 1,450 | 735 |
| 2003/04 | 1,385 | 760 |
| 2004/05 | 1,475 | 765 |
| 2005/06 | 1,580 | 865 |
| 2006/07 | 1,495 | 790 |
| 2007/08 | 1,480 | 785 |

[1] "Young" refers to entrants aged under 21.
[2] Covers entrants to both full-time and part-time courses.
[3] Local authority is derived from postcode as recorded on the HESA student record. Those with missing or invalid postcodes will be coded as missing.
[4] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
*Notes:*
1. Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to provide consistency across the time series. 2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

It is not possible to calculate what proportion of young people from Tameside and Stockport local authorities began an undergraduate course at a UK higher education institution in recent years. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) published "Young participation in higher education" in January 2005, which is available from the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/

The HEFCE report shows participation rates for young people who enter higher education aged 18 or 19 disaggregated by local education authority (LEA) for the years 1997 to 2000.

At national level, the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) covers English-domiciled 17 to 30-year-old first-time entrants to higher education courses, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest available figure is 43.3 per cent. in 2007/08. For young people (aged 17-20), the figure is 34.2 per cent.

### Higher Education: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department plans to provide to universities in Coventry for research in *(a)* medicine, *(b)* history, *(c)* English and *(d)* modern foreign languages in 2009-10. [278931]

**Mr. Lammy:** HEFCE block grant research funding allocations for 2009-10 for the university of Coventry and university of Warwick are shown in the tables that follow. These show allocations of funding awarded in relation to each unit of assessment submitted at the last Research Assessment Exercise. Once calculated, the funding is awarded as a block grant and Higher Education Institutions have the freedom to choose where to invest this funding—and need not spend it in the disciplines that "earned" it.

In addition, BIS funds research through the research councils. These largely fund on the basis of competitively selecting projects through peer review.

*HEFCE research funding for the university of Warwick for 2009-10*

| Unit of assessment | HEFCE research funding for 2009-10 (£) |
|---|---|
| 4 Other Hospital Based Clinical Subjects | 1,087,016 |
| 7 Health Services Research | 1,206,826 |
| 14 Biological Sciences | 2,683,369 |
| 16 Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science | 1,569,670 |
| 18 Chemistry | 1,858,866 |
| 19 Physics | 2,187,013 |
| 20 Pure Mathematics | 1,324,095 |
| 21 Applied Mathematics | 1,220,972 |
| 22 Statistics and Operational Research | 996,912 |
| 23 Computer Science and Informatics | 978,352 |
| 25 General Engineering and Mineral and Mining Engineering | 3,348,681 |
| 34 Economics and Econometrics | 1,546,661 |
| 36 Business and Management Studies | 3,176,974 |
| 38 Law | 718,560 |
| 39 Politics and International Studies | 734,216 |
| 40 Social Work and Social Policy and Administration | 542,639 |
| 41 Sociology | 870,509 |
| 44 Psychology | 489,549 |
| 45 Education | 938,453 |
| 52 French | 291,060 |
| 53 German, Dutch and Scandinavian Languages | 128,388 |
| 54 Italian | 174,491 |
| 57 English Language and Literature | 936,679 |
| 59 Classics, Ancient History, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies | 324,185 |
| 60 Philosophy | 452,787 |
| 62 History | 1,068,101 |
| 64 History of Art, Architecture and Design | 201,491 |
| 65 Drama, Dance and Performing Arts | 952,815 |
| Total QR attributable to subjects | 32,009,330 |
| QR business research element | 623,853 |
| QR for national research libraries | 0 |
| Total research funding | 32,633,183 |

*HEFCE research funding for Coventry university for 2009-10*

| Unit of assessment | HEFCE research funding for 2009-10 (£) |
|---|---|
| 12 Allied Health Professions and Studies | 258,657 |
| 21 Applied Mathematics | 113,827 |
| 23 Computer Science and Informatics | 203,036 |
| 24 Electrical and Electronic Engineering | 104,555 |
| 28 Mechanical, Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering | 138,541 |
| 29 Metallurgy and Materials | 141,732 |
| 31 Town and Country Planning | 75,516 |

*HEFCE research funding for Coventry university for 2009-10*

| *Unit of assessment* | *HEFCE research funding for 2009-10 (£)* |
|---|---|
| 36 Business and Management Studies | 56,097 |
| 37 Library and Information Management | 68,229 |
| 38 Law | 27,627 |
| 39 Politics and International Studies | 95,390 |
| 40 Social Work and Social Policy and Administration | 57,473 |
| 44 Psychology | 7,462 |
| 45 Education | 94,441 |
| 46 Sports-Related Studies | 67,440 |
| 63 Art and Design | 512,620 |
| Total QR attributable to subjects | 2,022,643 |
| QR business research element | 83,634 |
| QR for national research libraries | 0 |
| Total research funding | 2,106,277 |

### Higher Education: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of 18 to 25-year-olds resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point was in higher education (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the latest date for which information is available. [280456]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Government do not collect data on the number of adults resident in a particular area who are not in higher education, so it is not possible to calculate the proportion of 18 to 25-year-olds from Essex local authority and Castle Point constituency who were in higher education in 1997 and the latest date for which information is available.

The numbers of 18 to 25-year-old students from Essex and Castle Point who were enrolled in higher education are shown as an alternative in the table. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

*18-25 year old Enrolments[1] from Essex local authority[2] and Castle Point parliamentary constituency[2]: UK higher education institutions academic years 1997-98 and 2007-08*

| | *1997-98* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| Essex | 16,040 | 21,290 |
| Castle Point | 840 | 1,100 |

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.
[2] Local authority and parliamentary constituency are defined by full and valid home postcodes recorded on the HESA student record.
*Notes:*
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

### Members: Correspondence

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter of 19 May 2009 from the hon. Member for Castle Point, on his constituent, Mrs Hilton. [279299]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and the hon. Member will receive a response shortly.

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Technology plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 15 April 2009, on broadband for pensioners. [279441]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* My colleague the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communications, Broadcasting and Technology responded to the hon. Member on 11 June. I apologise for the delay which was caused by the current high volumes of correspondence.

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Small Business plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 21 April 2009, on Royal Worcester porcelain. [279442]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Economic Competitiveness, Small Business and Enterprise apologises for the delay in responding. This is unacceptable and the hon. Member will receive a response shortly

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 7 May 2009 on BWB Consulting Ltd. [279841]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* I apologise to my hon. Friend for the delay in responding. This is unacceptable and we will respond shortly.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to respond to the hon. Member for Billericay's letter of 21 April 2009 on Visteon, transferred to his Department by the Department for Work and Pensions. [280250]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding. My hon. Friend the Minister for Business and Regulatory Reform will respond shortly.

### Minimum Wage: Telephone Services

**David Taylor:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the tender document for the contract for the national minimum wage helpline. [278877]

**Mr. McFadden:** The helpline service—known as the Pay and Work Rights line—was procured using the COI's Framework Agreement for Direct and Relationship Marketing Services. COI issued the invitation to tender to run the service to selected companies on its roster of pre-qualified helpline providers. The COI regards the tender documentation as commercially confidential.

## Overseas Students: Russia

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Russian nationals were enrolled on *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate courses at educational institutions in (i) London and (ii) England at the latest date for which figures are available. [279207]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

*Russian national enrolments by Government office region of institution—English higher education institutions—academic year 2007/08*

| *Level of study* | *English HEIs* | *Of which: London HEIs* |
|---|---|---|
| Postgraduate | 1,235 | 530 |
| Undergraduate | 2,265 | 1,015 |

*Note:*
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

## Research Councils: Finance

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much in *(a)* compensation for foreign exchange exposure, *(b)* loans and *(c)* other funding his Department has provided for the research councils in addition to the allocations in the 2007 science budget. [278469]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The CSR 2007 allocations to the Research Councils' out of the science and research budget were published in December 2007. Since then there have been additions to the Research Councils' allocations as set out as follows.

*(a) Table 1: Additional funding to Research Councils in respect of the extra costs of international subscriptions arising from exchange rate changes*

| | *Total (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 21,061 |
| 2009-10 | 50,800 |

*(b) Table 2: Temporary loans to Research Councils*

| | *Total (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 26,200 |
| 2009-10 | 19,900 |

*Note:*
The loans were made on the condition that they are repaid by the end of CSR 2007.

*(c) Table 3: Other funding—additional capital allocations to Research Councils in respect of approved new large facilities projects*

| | *Total (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 52,555 |
| 2009-10 | 89,360 |

## Vocational Training

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many under 25-year-olds will receive *(a)* jobs and *(b)* training in the logistics sector under the scheme announced in the Budget 2009; [276147]

(2) how many under 25-year-olds will receive *(a)* jobs and *(b)* training under the scheme announced in the Budget 2009. [276149]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

Under the scheme announced in the Budget, every young person will be offered up to six months work, training or work experience.

We anticipate creating up to 150,000 new jobs through the Future Jobs Fund, providing at least 100,000 jobs for young people and a significant proportion in areas of high unemployment.

As well as the Jobs Fund, Jobcentre Plus will work with growth sectors to help up to 100,000 long-term unemployed young people access existing jobs in key employment sectors.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Learning and Skills Council will be able to offer more than 80,000 training places for young adults who have been unemployed for more than 12 months. We are not yet in a position to be able to predict which sectors jobs and training will be in.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 22 June 2009*

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Leader of the House how many breaches of information security there have been in her Office in the last five years. [281091]

**Barbara Keeley:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer that will be given by the Cabinet Office.

The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in 2007. It would not be possible to provide information prior to 2007 without incurring a disproportionate cost.

### Members: Misconduct

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to provide for *(a)* (i) the suspension from the House and (ii) the dismissal from the House of hon. Members found to have committed serious misdemeanours and *(b)* a vote in the constituencies of such hon. Members to determine whether they should keep their seats in such cases; and if she will make a statement. [281785]

**Barbara Keeley:** The Government will bring forward proposals for a new Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority soon.

### Public Consultations

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Leader of the House how many public consultations have been conducted by her Office since 27 June 2007; what the title of each has been; how many responses to each consultation were received; and what estimate has been made of the total cost incurred for each consultation. [280911]

**Barbara Keeley:** The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons has conducted two public consultations since 27 June 2007.

A consultation on "The Governance of Britain—The Government's Draft Legislative Programme" began in July 2007. Around 250 individuals, representing a wide variety of organisations and stakeholders, attended a number of events around the country as part of this consultation. The main consultation event was a public engagement led by Ipsos Mori that cost £54,946.06. Responses to the consultation were also received in both letter and e-mail format. Figures are not available on the cost of publication.

The second public consultation began in May 2008 and was entitled "Preparing Britain for the Future—The Government's Draft Legislative Programme" which cost £32,035 to publish. The cost of the consultation exercise for this programme was £30,922.38.

This programme received the views of around 2,000 people and organisations. These comprised 751 responses to the Leader of the House of Commons' website, at least 1,200 people and organisations who participated in the 58 regional events and 44 individuals and 58 organisations who responded by post.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Civil Servants: Foreign Workers

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many foreign nationals were employed in the civil service in accordance with a Ministerial certificate under the Aliens Employment Act 1955 in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; how many of these were employed by the Ministry of Defence in each such year; and if she will make a statement. [274641]

**Angela E. Smith:** The total number of non-UK nationals employed under cover of an Aliens' Certificate during 2007-08 was 82, with 69 being the final year-end figure.

Of the 82 certificates in force throughout the year, 55 were issued by the Ministry of Defence with 51 being the year-end figure.

The figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

### Civil Servants: Merseyside

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Civil Service jobs were *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished on Merseyside in each year since 2003-04. [278088]

**Angela E. Smith:** Cabinet Office does not hold data centrally on civil service jobs created and abolished on Merseyside in each year since 2003-04.

### Civil Servants: Political Impartiality

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Cabinet Office has issued guidance to Government Departments and non-departmental public bodies on whether recognised trade unions with political funds should inform staff of their right to opt out of the political levy. [270160]

**Angela E. Smith:** This is a matter for the trade unions.

### Civil Servants: Vacancies

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on civil servants: vacancies, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Protocol on Handling Surplus Staff. [271914]

**Angela E. Smith:** A copy of the "Protocol on Handling Surplus Staff" is available on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/strengthening_protocols_tcm6-2846.doc

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Civil Service: Recruitment

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what percentage of civil service posts are reserved posts for UK nationals as public service posts. [274628]

**Angela E. Smith:** A figure is not held centrally. Approximately 5 per cent. of civil service posts are reserved for UK nationals under the criteria specified on the face of the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007.

### Community Assets Programme

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many community assets have been transferred into local community ownership under the £30 million community assets fund scheme; and how many she expects to be transferred by 2011. [278894]

**Angela E. Smith:** 34 third sector organisations have received a full grant award to date and are working in partnership with their local authority to refurbish or extend community buildings with a grant from the Community Assets Programme. Many of these have already started building or renovation work.

Depending on the contractual agreement between the third sector organisation and local authority, transfer of the asset occurs either prior to start of works, or on completion of works to the building. A further four projects currently have an in-principle grant. This means that we expect a total of 38 buildings to have been transformed and transferred from local authority to community ownership from now until 2011.

### Death: Dengue Fever

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths of residents of *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* Teesside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK have been attributed to dengue fever in the last 10 years. [280699]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths of residents of *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* Teesside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK have been attributed to dengue fever in the last 10 years. (280699)

There were no deaths with an underlying cause of dengue fever registered in the United Kingdom from 1999 to 2008 (the latest year available).[1, 2, 3]

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 061 (Dengue) and 065.4 (haemorrhagic fever caused by Dengue virus) for 1999 to 2000 for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and for 1999 for Scotland, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes A90 (Dengue fever) and A91 (Dengue haemorrhagic fever) for 2001 onwards for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and for 2000 onwards for Scotland.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year. Deaths are not all registered in the year they happen. For example, deaths subject to inquest are not normally registered until the inquest is completed, after which the coroner sends a certificate to the registrar.

[3] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

### Departmental Cleaning Services

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which organisations provided cleaning services to the Cabinet Office in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each such contract was in each such year. [280761]

**Angela E. Smith:** EcovertFM provide the cleaning services as part of a Total FM package for the Cabinet Office and Carillion provide the cleaning services as part of a Total FM package for the emergency planning college at Easingwold, York.

The information requested therefore can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Dismissal

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many members of staff in 10 Downing Street were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274310]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Prime Minister's Office is part of the Cabinet Office.

In 2003 the Cabinet Office dismissed a total of six people including five people for poor performance. It is the Cabinet Office's policy not to report information which may identify individuals, and therefore the data for 2000-02 and 2004-09 have been withheld.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on the Cabinet Office estate and (ii) by the Cabinet Office's agency in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09; [280520]

(2) how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for the Cabinet Office estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans she has for future energy efficiency measures; [280530]

(3) which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of the Cabinet Office's estate. [280564]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office central London estate and including the Emergency Planning College (York), has consumed the following amount of gas and electricity on its estate.

| | Electricity | kWh Gas |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 10,992,730 | [1]— |
| 2005-06 | 11,388,625 | 3,559,000 |
| 2006-07 | 11,125,531 | 4,394,090 |
| 2007-08 | 10,222,068 | 2,966,949 |

[1] No accurate data available

The Cabinet Office has participated in the Carbon Trust Carbon Management programme for buildings where it has an influence or control over. It has developed an ongoing action plan which includes projects such as installing lighting controls and improving insulation.

For the period 2007-08 the Department spent £37,164. The energy efficiency measures are not separately identifiable for 2004-06 and are only partially available for the year 2007. Figures for 2008-09 are still subject to audit and will be available once the Department's 2008-09 accounts have been published; this is expected early July.

Any major refurbishments or new build which the Cabinet Office undertakes will endeavour to meet Building Research Establishment environmental assessment method "excellent" standard wherever possible in the context of the historic listed nature of much of the Department's estate.

Two of the Department's key buildings are currently undergoing modernisation projects. New sustainability measures such as: plans to replace the old boilers and heat-exchange calorifiers with more efficient plant, additional intelligent lighting systems and improvements to thermal insulation. Not all of these have full financial approval yet and other sustainability measures will be considered and incorporated as part of these works, should the funding be made available.

There are also plans to install voltage reduction equipment installed into four other buildings. Assessment of individual efficiency measures are made whenever it is possible to do so.

The senior official with responsibility for sustainable development is the director of financial and estate management.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what estimate she has made of water consumption on her Department's office estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [280946]

(2) what estimate she has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in her Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [280947]

(3) what estimate she has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in her Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [280948]

(4) what estimate she has made of the percentage of electricity used by her Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [280949]

(5) what estimate she has made of the amount of waste arising from her Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [281029]

(6) what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of waste her Department recycled in (a) 2006-07 and (b) 2007-08; [281030]

(7) what estimate she has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport used for administrative operations by her Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [281031]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested by the hon. Member for South East Cambridgeshire is presented in the following table. This information is also available in the annual Sustainable Development in Government Report published by the Sustainable Development Commission, found on their website:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/sustainable-development-in-government-sdig.html

| | 2006-07 total | 2007-08 total | 2006-07 per FTE | 2007-08 per FTE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Water consumption (m3) | 47,997.0 | 56,054.0 | 18.4 | 14.2 |
| Total waste arising (tonnes) | 1,050.0 | 1,129.0 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Waste recycled (tonnes) | 712.0 | 741.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Waste recycled (percentage) | 67.8 | 65.7 | — | — |
| Energy consumption (kW/h) | 21,815,717 | 21,102,455 | 8,364.9 | 5,341.0 |
| Energy from renewables (percentage) | 55.5 | 43.9 | — | — |
| Carbon from offices (tonnes) | 7,523.0 | 8,456.0 | 2.9 | 2.1 |
| Carbon from road vehicles (tonnes) | [1]— | 34.6 | [1]— | 0.009 |
| Carbon from air travel (tonnes) | 4,166.7 | 4,352.1 | 1.6 | 1.1 |

[1] Not known.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agency have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281082]

**Angela E. Smith:** During the period 2004 to 2008 (inclusive), the Cabinet Office lost or had stolen 13 officially provided laptop computers. No classified material was held on any of that equipment

The Cabinet Office is not responsible for any Executive Agencies.

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what information her Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which her Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry; [261229]

(2) what information the Cabinet Office holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in the Prime Minister's Office in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261239]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested is not held centrally and therefore can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Television

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many plasma screen televisions there are in the Prime Minister's office in No. 12 Downing Street; and how much each of these cost to purchase. [252362]

**Angela E. Smith:** There are two plasma screen televisions in No. 12 Downing street; both were already in situ in the Prime Minister's Office, therefore no addition costs were incurred.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what training courses have been attended by special advisers in her Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279406]

**Angela E. Smith:** Special advisers receive training as appropriate to enable them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers".

### Employment

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals, *(e)* EU A8 nationals and *(f)* non-EU nationals of working age in the UK were in employment in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [280798]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) UK born people, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals, (e) EU A8 nationals and (f) non-EU nationals of working age in the UK were in employment in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. (280798)

The information requested is shown in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is assessed in a footnote to the table.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

*Employment levels and rates for working age[1] people, by nationality and country of birth—three months ending March, June, September and December, 2007 to 2008 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand and percentage*

| | *UK nationals* | | *UK born* | | *Non-UK nationals[2]* | | *Non-UK EU nationals* | | *EU A8 nationals[3]* | | *Non-EU nationals* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Rate (%)* | *Number* | *Rate (%)* | *Number* | *Rate (%)* | *Number* | *Rate (%)* | *Number* | *Rate (%)* | *Number* | *Rate (%)* |
| 2007 Q2 | 25,784 | 75 | 24,508 | 75 | 2,103 | 68 | 969 | 77 | 431 | 82 | 1,134 | 62 |
| 2007 Q3 | 26,023 | 75 | 24,694 | 76 | 2,113 | 69 | 969 | 78 | 430 | 84 | 1,144 | 62 |
| 2007 Q4 | 26,050 | 76 | 24,718 | 78 | 2,173 | 68 | 1,010 | 79 | 469 | 84 | 1,163 | 61 |
| 2008 Q1 | 25,870 | 75 | 24,547 | 75 | 2,254 | 69 | 1,068 | 79 | 500 | 83 | 1,186 | 62 |
| 2008 Q2 | 25,882 | 75 | 24,532 | 75 | 2,266 | 69 | 1,065 | 79 | 498 | 84 | 1,201 | 62 |
| 2008 Q3 | 25,928 | 75 | 24,580 | 76 | 2,279 | 69 | 1,045 | 79 | 504 | 84 | 1,234 | 63 |
| 2008 Q4 | 25,749 | 75 | 24,372 | 75 | 2,342 | 69 | 1,052 | 77 | 470 | 81 | 1,290 | 63 |

*Employment levels and rates for working age[1] people, by nationality and country of birth—three months ending March, June, September and December, 2007 to 2008 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand and percentage*

| | *UK nationals* | | *UK born* | | *Non-UK nationals[2]* | | *Non-UK EU nationals* | | *EU A8 nationals[3]* | | *Non-EU nationals* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Rate (%)* | *Number* | *Rate (%)* | *Number* | *Rate (%)* | *Number* | *Rate (%)* | *Number* | *Rate (%)* | *Number* | *Rate (%)* |
| 2009 Q1[4] | *25,454 | 74 | *24,067 | 74 | *2,313 | 69 | *1,097 | 78 | **500 | 83 | *1,215 | 62 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.
[3] EU A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
[4] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
*Guide to Quality:*
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220
*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*
* 0 = CV<5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.).
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

## Employment Tribunals Service

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many actions under employment law have been brought against her Department in respect of *(a)* the Prime Minister's Office, *(b)* the Office of the Leader of the House and *(c)* her Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by her Department at an employment tribunal. [277426]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Prime Minister's Office and the Leader's Office are part of the Cabinet Office.

During the last three financial years fewer than five employment law actions have been brought against the Department. It is Cabinet Office policy not to report information which may identify individuals. Detailed information on the categories of action and contested cases is therefore withheld.

## Employment: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point were unemployed for a period in each of the last five years; [281320]

(2) how many people resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point were in employment for a period in each of the last five years; [281321]

(3) what the average unemployment rate among the working age population in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point was in each of the last five years; [281322]

(4) how many *(a)* males, *(b)* females and *(c)* single parents were (i) in employment and (ii) unemployed for a period in (A) Essex and (B) Castle Point in each of the last five years. [281323]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people resident in (a) Essex and (b) Castle Point were unemployed for a period in each of the last five years; how many people resident in (a) Essex and (b) Castle Point were in employment in each of the last five years; what the average unemployment rate among the working age population in (a) Essex and (b) Castle Point was in each of the last five years; and how many (a) males, (b) females and (c) single parents were in (i) in employment and (ii) unemployed for a period in (a) Essex and (b) Castle Point in each of the last five years. (281320, 281321, 281322 & 281323)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). Estimates of total unemployment for unitary and local authorities are produced from a statistical model, following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of people aged 16 and over, resident in Essex and Castle Point, who were unemployed for a period in each of the last five years. The estimates for Essex have been compiled from the APS, estimates for Castle Point are compiled from model based estimates.

Table 2 shows the number of people aged 16 and over, resident in the requested geographies who were employed in each of the last five years. The estimates have been compiled from the APS.

Unemployment rates are calculated as the number of unemployed people 16+ as a percentage of the economically active population rather than as a percentage of the working age population. Table 3 shows the unemployment rates of people resident in the requested geographies, in each of the last five years, consistent with these definitions. Unemployment rates for Essex have been compiled from the APS and are based on the percentage of the economically active population. Estimates for Castle Point are compiled from Model based estimates.

Table 4 shows the number of lone parents below state pension age with dependent children in employment and unemployed in the requested geographies for the calendar years 2004 to 2007.

Estimates are derived from the APS household datasets and are only available for January to December for the years 2004 to 2007.

Table 5 shows the number males and females aged 16 and over resident in the requested geographies who were employed in each of the last five years.

Table 6 shows the number of males and females aged 16 and over resident in the requested geographies unemployed in each of the last five years. The estimates in Tables 5&6 have been compiled from the APS.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment are available from the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1: Number of persons unemployed[1] resident in Essex and Castle Point in each of the last five years*

Thousand

| 12 month period | Essex | Castle Point[2] |
|---|---|---|
| January to December 2004 | 26 | 1 |
| January to December 2005 | 28 | 2 |
| January to December 2006 | 25 | 2 |
| January to December 2007 | 32 | 2 |
| October 2007 to September 2008 | ***31 | ***2 |

'—' = Data is unreliable for practical purposes.
[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.
[2] Model Based Estimates.
[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality following.
*Guide to Quality:*
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (percentage)*
* 0 = CV <5
** 5 = CV <10
*** 10 = CV <20
**** CV = 20
*Source:*
Annual Population Surveys Model Based Estimates

*Table 2: Number of persons employed[1] resident in Essex and Castle Point in each of the last five years*

Thousand

| 12 month period | Essex | Castle Point |
|---|---|---|
| January to December 2004 | 656 | 44 |
| January to December 2005 | 668 | 43 |
| January to December 2006 | 666 | 42 |
| January to December 2007 | 673 | 44 |
| October 2007 to September 2008[2] | *680 | **41 |

[1] Levels of employment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality following.
*Guide to Quality:*
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
*KEY Statistical Robustness*
* Estimates are considered precise.
** Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
*Source:*
Annual Population Survey

*Table 3: Unemployment rates[1] for people resident in Essex and Castle Point for each of the last five years*

Percentage

| 12 month period | Essex | Castle Point[2] |
|---|---|---|
| January to December 2004 | 3.8 | 3.2 |
| January to December 2005 | 4.0 | 3.6 |
| January to December 2006 | 3.6 | 3.9 |
| January to December 2007 | 4.5 | 3.5 |
| October 2007 to September 2008 | 4.3 | 4.1 |

[1] Number of unemployed people 16+ as a percentage of the economically active population.
[2] Model based estimates.
*Source:*
Annual Population Survey and Model Based Estimates

*Table 4: Number of lone parents[1] with dependent children[2] in Essex and Castle Point, 2004 to 2007*

*January to December of each year*

Thousand

| | Essex | Castle Point |
|---|---|---|
| *In employment* | | |
| 2004 | 15 | — |
| 2005 | 21 | — |
| 2006 | 22 | — |
| 2007[3] | ***23 | **** — |
| *Unemployed* | | |
| 2004 | — | — |
| 2005 | — | — |
| 2006 | — | — |
| 2007[3] | **** — | **** — |

'—' = Data is unreliable for practical purposes.
[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[2] Dependent children are children aged under 16 and those 16 to 18 who are never-married and in full-time education.
[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality following.
*Guide to Quality:*
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
*KEY Coefficient of Variation (CV) (percentage) Statistical Robustness (CV) (percentage)*
* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
*Source:*
Annual Population Survey Household data sets

*Table 5: Number of persons employed[1] by gender resident In Essex and Castle Point in each of the last five years*

Thousand

| | Essex | | Castle Point | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 month period | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| January to December 2004 | 360 | 296 | 24 | 20 |
| January to December 2005 | 364 | 304 | 24 | 19 |
| January to December 2006 | 363 | 303 | 23 | 20 |
| January to December 2007 | 372 | 301 | 23 | 21 |
| October 2007 to September 2008 | *374 | *306 | ***23 | ***18 |

[1] Levels of employment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality following.
*Guide to Quality:*
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (percentage) Statistical Robustness (CV) (percentage)*
* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

*Table 6: Number of persons unemployed[1] by gender resident in Essex and Castle Point in each of the last five years*

Thousand

| | Essex | | Castle Point | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 month period | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| January to December 2004 | 14 | 11 | — | — |
| January to December 2005 | 15 | 13 | — | — |

*Table 6: Number of persons unemployed[1] by gender resident in Essex and Castle Point in each of the last five years*

Thousand

| | Essex | | Castle Point | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *12 month period* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* |
| January to December 2006 | 12 | 13 | — | — |
| January to December 2007 | 16 | 15 | — | — |
| October 2007 to September 2008 | ***16 | ***15 | ****_ | ****_ |

'—' = Data disclosive or is unreliable for practical purposes.
[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality following.
*Guide to Quality:*
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (percentage) Statistical Robustness (CV) (percentage)*
* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

## Employment: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many *(a)* males, *(b)* females and *(c)* single parents were (i) in employment and (ii) unemployment for at least a period in Peterborough in each of the last five years; [281666]

(2) what the average unemployment rate among the working age population in Peterborough was in each of the last five years; [281667]

(3) how many people resident in Peterborough were in employment for at least a period in each of the last five years. [281668]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many (a) males, (b) females and (c) single parents were (i) in employment and (ii) unemployment for at least a period in Peterborough in each of the last five years; what the average unemployment rate among the working age population in Peterborough was in each of the last five years; and how many people resident in Peterborough were in employment for at least a period in each of the last five years. (281666,281667 & 281668)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates of total unemployment for unitary and local authorities are produced from a statistical model, and follow International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of males, females and total people aged 16 and over resident in Peterborough Local Authority (LA), who were employed in each of the last five years. The estimates have been compiled from the APS. The latest period for which data are available is October 2007 to September 2008. Numbers of males and females aged 16 and over resident in Peterborough LA, who were unemployed in each of the last five years have not been provided due to the unreliability of data for statistical purposes at this level of geography. The unemployment rates of people resident in Peterborough LA, in each of the last five years are also shown in Table 1.

Unemployment rates are calculated as the number of unemployed people 16+ as a percentage of the economically active population rather than as a percentage of the working age population, thus estimates provided are consistent with these definitions. Estimates for Peterborough LA are compiled from Model based estimates.

Table 2 shows the number of lone parents below state pension age with dependent children who were in employment and resident in Peterborough LA, for the calendar years 2004 to 2007. Estimates are derived from the APS household datasets and are only available for January to December for the years 2004 to 2007. Lone parent unemployment estimates for Peterborough LA cannot be provided as the sample size is too small and considered unreliable for practical purposes.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment are available from the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1: Number of persons employed and unemployed[1] and unemployment rate[2] for people resident in Peterborough local authority in each of the last five years*

| | *Employed (Thousand)* | | *Unemployed (Thousand)* | | | *Unemployment rate (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *12-month period* | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* | *Male* | *Female* | *People[3]* |
| January to December 2004 | 44 | 37 | 81 | — | — | 4.4 |
| January to December 2005 | 43 | 37 | 79 | — | — | 4.9 |
| January to December 2006 | 43 | 36 | 79 | — | — | 5.7 |
| January to December 2007 | 44 | 35 | 78 | — | — | 5.9 |
| October 2007 to September 2008[4] | **43 | ***34 | **77 | ****_ | ****_ | 6.3 |

[1] Levels of employed and unemployed are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007. [2] Number of unemployed people aged 16 and over as a percentage of the economically active population. [3] Model based estimates. [4] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below. "—" Data are unreliable for practical purposes. Guide to Quality: The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

| *Key* | *Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%)* | *Statistical Robustness* |
|---|---|---|
| * | 0 = CV<5 | Estimates are considered precise |
| ** | 5 = CV <10 | Estimates are considered reasonably precise |
| *** | 10 = CV <20 | Estimates are considered acceptable |
| **** | CV ? 20 | Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes |

*Source:*
Annual Population Survey and Model Based Estimates.

*Table 2: Number of lone parents[1] with dependent children[2] resident in Peterborough local authority, 2004 to 2007*

| *12 month period* | *Peterborough local authority* |
|---|---|
| *In employment* | |
| January to December 2004 | 2 |
| January to December 2005 | 3 |
| January to December 2006 | 3 |
| January to December 2007[3] | ***3 |
| *Unemployed* | |
| January to December 2004 | — |
| January to December 2005 | — |
| January to December 2006 | — |

*Table 2: Number of lone parents[1] with dependent children[2] resident in Peterborough local authority, 2004 to 2007*

| *12 month period* | *Peterborough local authority* |
|---|---|
| January to December 2007[3] | **** |

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59. [2] Dependent children are children aged under 16 and those 16 to 18 who are never-married and in full-time education. [3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below. "—" Data are unreliable for practical purposes. Guide to Quality: The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

| *Key* | *Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%)* | *Statistical Robustness* |
|---|---|---|
| * | 0 = CV<5 | Estimates are considered precise |
| ** | 5 = CV <10 | Estimates are considered reasonably precise |
| *** | 10 = CV <20 | Estimates are considered acceptable |
| **** | CV ? 20 | Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes |

*Source:*
Annual Population Survey Household date sets.

## Public Expenditure: Leyton

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate the Office of National Statistics has made of public expenditure in Leyton and Wanstead constituency in each of the last 10 years. [278167]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the level of public expenditure in Leyton and Wanstead constituency in each of the last ten years. (278167)

The Office for National Statistics does not make estimates of public expenditure at a constituency level, therefore the information requested is not available.

## USA: Official Gifts

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to section 7.22 of the Ministerial Code, whether the gift of film DVDs to the Prime Minister from President Obama has been valued *(a)* above or *(b)* below the £140 threshold. [274080]

**Angela E. Smith:** As set out in the "Ministerial Code", the Government publishes an annual list of gifts received by Ministers valued at more than £140. Details for the financial year 2008-09 will be published before the summer recess.

A copy of the ministerial code is available in the Library of the House or can be found at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/propriety_and_ethics/assets/ministerial_code_current.pdf

## Voluntary Organisations: Domestic Violence

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent representations her Department has received from specialist voluntary sector organisations dealing with violence against women on the future funding of that sector. [278804]

**Angela E. Smith:** Ministers meet a wide range of third sector organisations, including women's groups and the issue of sustainable funding has been key to these discussions. That is why the Office of the Third Sector has been working closely with other Government Departments, in particular the Government Equalities Office, on developing a long-term and sustainable Government engagement strategy with the violence against women third sector. Through the Government's National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning we are engaging with local authority and other public sector commissioners on how to improve practice towards the third sector.

# HEALTH

## Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related deaths there were in each strategic health authority area in each year since 1997. [280787]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many alcohol-related deaths there were in each strategic health authority area in each year since 1997. (280787)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in strategic health authorities in England, from 1997 to 2008.

*Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause[1], strategic health authorities in England[2], 1997 to 2008[3,4]*

| *Strategic health authority* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 323 | 331 | 307 | 326 | 337 | 337 | 367 | 426 | 402 | 435 | 455 | 485 |
| Northwest | 860 | 878 | 922 | 931 | 1040 | 1054 | 1105 | 1166 | 1173 | 1209 | 1310 | 1311 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 405 | 431 | 446 | 419 | 489 | 475 | 573 | 615 | 643 | 679 | 675 | 652 |
| East Midlands | 322 | 307 | 394 | 410 | 408 | 434 | 482 | 482 | 506 | 505 | 513 | 582 |
| West Midlands | 497 | 583 | 578 | 588 | 655 | 697 | 737 | 743 | 776 | 801 | 809 | 907 |
| East of England | 319 | 404 | 390 | 426 | 441 | 456 | 484 | 485 | 492 | 556 | 573 | 569 |

*Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause[1], strategic health authorities in England[2], 1997 to 2008[3,4]*

| Strategic health authority | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| London | 732 | 773 | 806 | 794 | 787 | 832 | 826 | 758 | 744 | 824 | 704 | 739 |
| South East Coast | 333 | 348 | 361 | 394 | 468 | 457 | 449 | 446 | 472 | 508 | 499 | 489 |
| South Central | 274 | 298 | 303 | 306 | 356 | 351 | 421 | 386 | 402 | 413 | 394 | 389 |
| South West | 372 | 409 | 428 | 450 | 495 | 489 | 517 | 529 | 581 | 587 | 609 | 645 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the boxes below.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Figures for deaths registered in 2008 are provisional.

*Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death: International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)*

| Cause of death | ICD-9 code(s) |
|---|---|
| Alcoholic psychoses | 291 |
| Alcohol dependence syndrome | 303 |
| Non-dependent abuse of alcohol | 305.0 |
| Alcoholic cardiomyopathy | 425.5 |
| Alcoholic fatty liver | 571.0 |
| Acute alcoholic hepatitis | 571.1 |
| Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver | 571.2 |
| Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified | 571.3 |
| Chronic hepatitis | 571.4 |
| Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol | 571.5 |
| Other chronic non-alcoholic liver disease | 571.8 |
| Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol | 571.9 |
| Accidental poisoning by alcohol | E860 |

*Box 2: Alcohol-related causes of death: International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)*

| Cause of death | ICD-10 code(s) |
|---|---|
| Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol | F10 |
| Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol | G31.2 |
| Alcoholic polyneuropathy | G62.1 |
| Alcoholic cardiomyopathy | I42.6 |
| Alcoholic gastritis | K29.2 |
| Alcoholic liver disease | K70 |
| Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified | K73 |
| Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis) | K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5) |
| Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis | K86.0 |
| Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X45 |
| Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X65 |
| Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent | Y15 |

## Christie Hospital Manchester: Bank Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has made to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme on behalf of the Christie Charity. [280900]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 113W.

## Departmental Correspondence

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of letters to his Department from hon. Members' parliamentary offices were answered within 30 days of the date of receipt in each quarter from January 2008 to March 2009. [280465]

**Phil Hope:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement given by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Tom Watson) on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 80-86WS.

## Departmental Data Protection

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent steps he has taken to ensure that NHS organisations comply with the recommendations of the Cabinet Office report on Data Handling Procedures in Government; [278857]

(2) what recent steps he has taken to ensure that data held by NHS organisations on portable devices are securely *(a)* stored, *(b)* used and *(c)* destroyed. [278858]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** All national health service organisations are individually legally responsible for the data in their possession and for complying with data protection legislation. Relevant recommendations of the Cabinet Office report, including clear expectations relating to secure storage, use and destruction of data, have been included as key requirements within the NHS Information Governance Performance Assessment process. Both the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10 and the national framework contracts for acute, mental health and ambulance services require compliance with these key requirements as soon as is practicable.

The NHS Chief Executive has written to chief executives of NHS organisations on a number of occasions to stress the importance of meeting these requirements, and of actively managing risks where the pace at which they can be met is constrained by the need to ensure patient care is not disrupted. Comprehensive guidance, along with free on-line training, free encryption software licences, and secure data transfer mechanisms, have been provided by the Department via NHS Connecting for Health.

## Departmental Marketing

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in each of the last five years. [277155]

**Phil Hope:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Expenditure on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers, 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| *Financial year* | *Total spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 2,028,961 |
| 2005-06 | 1,401,409 |
| 2006-07 | 775,262 |
| 2007-08 | 942,877 |
| 2008-09 | 1,090,881 |
| Total | 6,239,390 |

*Source:*
Central Office of Information (COI)

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 114W, on departmental marketing, when he expects his Department to complete its review of its advertising expenditure in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [278270]

**Phil Hope:** The Department expects to complete its review of its advertising expenditure in the last five years by the time Parliament rises for the summer recess.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how frequently his Department reviews its expenditure on advertising. [278271]

**Phil Hope:** The Department reviews its expenditure on each advertising campaign annually, as part of the business planning process.

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275254]

**Phil Hope:** The information requested is given in the following table.

| | | *Agencies (b)* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Core Department* | *NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA)* | *Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency* |
| Amount of end of year non-consolidated performance payments to all staff (£) | 1,895,150 | 69,209 | 810,325 |
| Number of all of end of year non-consolidated performance payments | 512 | 48 | 204 |
| Amount of end of year non-consolidated performance payments to senior civil service (SCS) staff (£) | 1,764,327 | 51,948 | 767,169 |
| Number of SCS non-consolidated performance payments | 188 | 6 | 89 |
| Total pay bill (£) | 141,076,639 | 10,256,000 | 37,240,000 |
| Percentage used for non-consolidated performance payments | 1.34 | 0.67 | 2.18 |
| Median end of year non-consolidated performance payment (£) | 537 | 424 | 594 |

The above non-consolidated performance payments, paid in 2008-09, relate to performance in 2007-08.

All non-consolidated performance payments are funded within existing pay bill controls, have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The purpose of such payments is to ensure that those staff making the greatest contribution to the work of the Department are suitably rewarded.

For grades below the senior civil service, 2008-09 is the first year that non-consolidated performance payments have been made. For the senior civil service, the size of the non-consolidated performance pay pot is based on recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body and has been frozen to reflect the current economic conditions.

## Departmental Press

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* periodicals are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279415]

**Phil Hope:** The information given relates to Library purchases for the Department's Ministers in May 2009 and reflects the ministerial team at the time.

*Newspapers*

*Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson: Secretary of State for Health*

*(All titles are for Monday to Friday)*

*Daily Express*
*Daily Mail*
*Daily Mirror*
*Daily Telegraph*
*Evening Standard first edition*
*Evening Standard West End Final*
*Financial Times*
*Guardian*
*Independent*
*Sun*
*Times*
*Yorkshire Post (Regional)*

Total cost: £166.97

*Ben Bradshaw: Minister of State*

*(All titles are for Monday to Thursday)*

*Daily Express*

*Daily Mail*
*Daily Mirror*
*Daily Telegraph*
*Evening Standard first edition*
*Evening Standard West End Final*
*Express and Echo, Exeter*
*Financial Times*
*Guardian*
*Independent*
*Sun*
*Times*
*Western Morning News*
Total cost: £190.93

*Rt. Hon. Dawn Primarolo: Minister of State*
*(All titles are for Monday to Thursday)*
*Daily Express*
*Daily Mail*
*Daily Mirror*
*Daily Telegraph*
*Evening Standard West End Final*
*Financial Times*
*Guardian*
*Independent*
*Sun*
*Times*
Total cost: £107.80

*Phil Hope: Minister of State*
*(All titles are for Monday to Thursday)*
*Daily Mail*
*Daily Mirror*
*Daily Telegraph*
*Evening Standard first edition*
*Financial Times*
*Guardian*
*Independent*
*Sun*
*Times*
Total cost: £109.70

*Ann Keen: Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State*
*(All titles are for Monday to Thursday)*
*Daily Express*
*Daily Mail*
*Daily Telegraph*
*Evening Standard first edition*
*Evening Standard West End Final*
*Financial Times*
*Guardian*
*Independent*
*Times*
Total £99.40

*Periodicals*

*Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson: Secretary of State for Health*
*British Medical Journal*
*Economist*
*Health Service Journal*
*Lancet*
*Public Finance*
*Spectator*
Total cost: £139.95

*Ben Bradshaw: Minister of State*
*Economist*
*General Practitioner*
*Health Service Journal*
*New Statesman*
*Private Eye*
*Pulse*
*Spectator*
Total: £81.17

*Rt. Hon. Dawn Primarolo: Minister of State*
*Economist*
Total cost: £20.00

*Phil Hope: Minister of State*
*Community Care*
*Health Service Journal*
*Private Eye*
Total cost: £23.95

*Ann Keen: Parliamentary Under-Secretary*
*Economist*
*Health Service Journal*
*New Statesman*
*Nursing Times*
*Private Eye*
*Spectator*
Total cost: £62.10

*Professor The Lord Darzi, KBE: Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State*
*Health Service Journal*
*Private Eye*
Total cost: £16.60

The total cost for newspapers and periodicals for May 2009 is £1,018.57.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public consultations have been carried out by his Department since July 2007. [279412]

**Phil Hope:** A list of the formal written public consultations launched by the Department between 1 July 2007 and 31 May 2009 has been placed in the Library.

### Departmental Travel

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on tickets for *(a)* air and *(b)* rail travel for (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department which were not used in each of the last three years. [280012]

**Phil Hope:** All expenditure on air and rail travel has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The Department has spent the following on tickets booked through our travel-booking contractor which have not been used and have been returned.

| | Air travel | £ Rail travel |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 137,555 | 694,616 |
| 2007-08 | 91,580 | 341,483 |
| 2008-09 | 98,369 | 382,176 |

Returned tickets are refunded to the Department subject to an administration fee.

The amount refunded to the Department was:

| | Air travel | £ Rail travel |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 135,915 | 629,646 |
| 2007-08 | 90,740 | 294,223 |
| 2008-09 | 97,106 | 324,563 |

It is not possible to break these figures down between Ministers, special advisers and civil servants as it would mean going through individual records and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

### Drugs: Prisons

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners have been *(a)* detoxed for up to 14 days with the prescription of methadone, *(b)* maintained on methadone beyond a 14-day detoxification and *(c)* placed on abstinence-based addiction programmes in each prison and young offender institution in each of the last five years. [280349]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has not centrally collected the information requested for each of the last five years.

However, mechanisms have been put in place as of 1 April 2009 and prisons are now collecting baseline data on the number of drug users in effective treatment. This will enable the Department to collect comparable data from April 2010.

### Fluoride: Drinking Water

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he issues to strategic health authorities on the proportion of representations required in opposition to fluoridation of tap water in a particular community in order for the authority to withdraw its proposals for fluoridation of the water supply to that community; [281140]

(2) for what reasons strategic health authorities consult local communities on whether their tap water should be fluoridated. [281141]

**Ann Keen:** Under regulation 5 of the Water Fluoridation (Consultation) (England) Regulations 2005, a strategic health authority (SHA) considering the outcome of a consultation on water fluoridation is required to take into account both the extent of support for the proposal and the cogency of the arguments advanced. In so doing, the authority has to be satisfied that the health arguments in favour of proceeding with the proposal outweigh all arguments against proceeding with it before it takes any steps regarding fluoridation arrangements. Accordingly, guidance on the application of the regulations, issued by the chief dental officer in February 2008, advised that:

"a SHA cannot base its decision solely on a simple count of the representations for or against the proposal".

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussion he has had with the Prime Minister on his recent statement in Southampton that the people should decide whether the city's water should be fluoridated. [281142]

**Ann Keen:** The Prime Minister's statement serves to highlight the legislative requirements contained in section 89 of the Water Industry Act 1991 whereby a strategic health authority must "consult and ascertain opinion" before requesting a water undertaker to increase the fluoride content of a water supply.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on ministerial statements for or against fluoridation during a period of public consultation on whether or not to fluoridate a water supply. [281143]

**Ann Keen:** The Government support the fluoridation of water because of the potential it offers for reducing inequalities in oral health. To help inform public consultations, Ministers will, if asked, explain the reasons for their support.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will call in for examination the decision of South Central Strategic Health Authority to introduce fluoridation in Southampton and Totton. [281146]

**Ann Keen:** This would not be appropriate as an application has been made for a judicial review of the decision of the South Central strategic health authority to fluoridate Southampton and parts of south west Hampshire.

### Health Services: Overseas Visitors

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much income the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust received from payments from foreign visitors not entitled to free NHS treatment in the last 12 months. [281399]

**Gillian Merron:** The Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS trust reported income from overseas patients under non-reciprocal agreements of £19,000. The figure provided is for 2007-08 which is the latest period for which audited figures are available.

The figure is taken from the NHS trust's audited summarisation schedules.

The Department is currently in the process of collecting 2008-09 accounts but this information will not be available until the autumn.

### Health: Research

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent on translational medical and health research in each of the last 10 years. [281645]

**Gillian Merron:** The information requested is not available.

Sir David Cooksey's report "A review of UK health research funding" published in December 2006 concluded that more should be done to ensure that publicly funded health research was carried out in the most effective and efficient way and to facilitate the rapid translation of research findings into health and economic benefits.

Under the oversight of the Office for Strategic Co-ordination of Health Research (OSCHR), the Medical Research Council and National Institute for Health Research have significantly increased their commitment to fund clinical and translational research. Details of the progress made are contained in the OSCHR chairman's first progress report available at:

www.nihr.ac.uk/about/Pages/about_oschr.aspx

### Hospitals: Admissions

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis codes *(a)* F19.0, *(b)* F19.1, *(c)* F19.2, *(d)* F19.3, *(e)* F19.4, *(f)* F19.5, *(g)* F19.6, *(h)* F19.7, *(i)* F19.8 and *(j)* F19.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [279723]

(2) how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis codes *(a)* F16.0, *(b)* F16.1, *(c)* F16.2, *(d)* F16.3, *(e)* F16.4, *(f)* F16.5, *(g)* F16.6, *(h)* F16.7, *(i)* F16.8 and *(j)* F16.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [279724]

(3) how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis codes *(a)* F14.0, *(b)* F14.1, *(c)* F14.2, *(d)* F14.3, *(e)* F14.4, *(f)* F14.5, *(g)* F14.6, *(h)* F14.7, *(i)* F14.8 and *(j)* F14.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [279725]

(4) how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis codes *(a)* F13.0, *(b)* F13.1, *(c)* F13.2, *(d)* F13.3, *(e)* F13.4, *(f)* F13.5, *(g)* F13.6, *(h)* F13.7, *(i)* F13.8 and *(j)* F13.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [279726]

(5) how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis codes *(a)* F12.0, *(b)* F12.1, *(c)* F12.2, *(d)* F12.3, *(e)* F12.4, *(f)* F12.5, *(g)* F12.6, *(h)* F12.7, *(i)* F12.8 and *(j)* F12.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [279727]

**Phil Hope:** The information has been placed in the Library. The information requested is shown in the tables by strategic health authority (SHA). To present the data by primary care trust we would need to suppress the majority of the data due to small numbers.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis code *(a)* Y65.0, *(b)* Y65.1, *(c)* Y65.2, *(d)* Y65.3, *(e)* Y65.4, *(f)* Y65.5 and *(g)* Y62.8 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [280472]

(2) how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis code *(a)* Y64, *(b)* Y66 and *(c)* Y69 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [280473]

(3) how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis code *(a)* Y63.0, *(b)* Y63.1, *(c)* Y63.2, *(d)* Y63.3, *(e)* Y63.4, *(f)* Y63.5, *(g)* Y63.6, *(h)* Y63.8 and *(i)* Y63.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [280474]

(4) how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis code *(a)* Y62.0, *(b)* Y62.1, *(c)* Y62.2, *(d)* Y62.3, *(e)* Y62.4, (f) Y62.5, *(g)* Y62.6, *(h)* Y62.8 and *(i)* Y62.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [280475]

(5) how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis code *(a)* Y61.0, *(b)* Y61.1, *(c)* Y61.2, *(d)* Y61.3, *(e)* Y61.4, *(f)* Y61.5, *(g)* Y61.6, *(h)* Y61.7, *(i)* Y61.8 and *(j)* Y61.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [280476]

(6) how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis code *(a)* Y60.0, *(b)* Y60.1, *(c)* Y60.2, *(d)* Y60.3, *(e)* Y60.4, *(f)* Y60.5, *(g)* Y60.6, *(h)* Y60.7, *(i)* Y60.8 and *(j)* Y60.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [280477]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The NHS Information Centre for health and social care has provided a count of admissions broken down by strategic health authority of residence. The data cover diagnosis codes Y60.0 to Y69 and a copy has been placed in the Library.

A count of admissions by primary care trust has not been included as the numbers are small and it may be possible to identify individual patients.

### Hospitals: Waiting Lists

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have died while waiting for NHS operations in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [280701]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department does not collect data centrally on the number of patients who die while waiting for national health service operations.

The NHS has achieved the shortest waits since NHS records began.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for an operation on the NHS was in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [280702]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department collects hospital in-patient waiting times information on patients who are waiting to be admitted for treatment. The following table shows the average in-patient waiting time in each year since 1999:

*Median in-patient waiting time for elective admission*

*Weeks*

| *Quarter ending* | *Middlesbrough PCT* | *Redcar and Cleveland PCT* | *Stockton PCTs* | *Hartlepool PCT* | *Tees heath authority* | *North East SHA* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 10.7 | 11.4 | 12.9 |
| 2000 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 11.4 | 11.3 | 12.9 |
| 2001 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 11.9 | 11.2 | 12.6 |
| 2002 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 13.2 | 12.1 | 12.7 |
| 2003 | 12.8 | 14.0 | 11.9 | 12.1 | 12.5 | 11.4 | 11.9 |
| 2004 | 11.0 | 11.3 | 10.8 | 10.4 | 10.9 | 9.9 | 10.2 |
| 2005 | 9.8 | 9.9 | 9.2 | 8.8 | 9.5 | 7.9 | 8.5 |
| 2006 | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 6.7 | 7.3 |
| 2007 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 5.6 | 6.2 |
| 2008 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 |
| 2009 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.0 |

*Notes:*
1. In-patient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
2. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated.
3. Figures for Tees health authority from 2003 are derived from the sum of the primary care trusts in existence at that time.
4. Primary care trust boundary changes in October 2006 affects figures for Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland primary care trusts.
5. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

*Source:*
Department of Health Quarterly Waiting List Collection QF01 and MMRCOM.

## Incontinence

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts provide an integrated continence service; [280983]

(2) what plans he has to carry out a cost-benefit analysis of the provision of integrated incontinence services. [280984]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has no plans to carry out a cost-benefit analysis of the provision of integrated continence services.

Information on the number of primary care trusts that provide an integrated continence service is not collected.

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether walk-in health centres will be able to make referrals to incontinence nurses. [280985]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** It is up to the commissioning primary care trust to determine locally what services will be provided to patients at new general practitioner-led health centres or national health service walk-in centres.

## Intensive Care

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients received treatment in intensive care units in 2008. [278493]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The actual number of patients treated in intensive care units is not held centrally.

## Malnutrition: Screening

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to ensure that sheltered housing scheme managers are trained to *(a)* identify and *(b)* treat malnutrition. [280492]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The provision of sheltered housing schemes is non-statutory and the employment of managers and care workers within those schemes is a matter for local authorities and other providers of sheltered housing. The Government do not issue any guidance on the employment or training of such housing scheme managers.

I am aware that the British Association of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN) recently published a study of malnutrition in sheltered housing which showed that nutritional problems are common among tenants of sheltered housing in England.

I understand that BAPEN is currently working with my ministerial colleagues in the Department of Health on the implementation of the nutrition action plan, which looks at how health and social care organisations can tackle the issues of nutritional care and hydration.

## Medical Equipment: East of England

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding his Department has allocated for the purchase of *(a)* spirometers, *(b)* anaesthesia machines, *(c)* electrosurgical units, *(d)* powered chairs and tables, *(e)* autoclaves, *(f)* ultrasound equipment, *(g)* pulse oximeters and EKG machines for hospitals in (i) Mid Bedfordshire constituency and (ii) the East of England region in each year since 1997; [280151]

(2) how much funding his Department allocated for the purchase of *(a)* densitometers, *(b)* defibrillators, *(c)* dental equipment, *(d)* patient monitors and *(e)* blood analyzers for hospitals in (i) Mid Bedfordshire constituency and (ii) the East of England region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [280282]

**Phil Hope:** This information is not held centrally.

The Department does not allocate funding for specific pieces of equipment; expenditure of allocated funds is decided by the local national health service.

### Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency office in each of the last five years. [280612]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is unable to categorise staff in accordance with the occupational groups requested. The majority of the Agency's staff are based in its London office. The following figures represent the total staff figures in accordance with their Civil Service grades. Generally speaking executive and support staff are within the Administrative Officer and Executive Officer grade. The most senior managers and senior specialists are within the Senior Civil Service grade. Also included in the Senior Civil Service figure are 10 Directors.

*Staff in post as per 31 March year ending*

| *Grade* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Administrative Officer | 173 | 139 | 134 | 126 | 126 |
| Executive Officer | 157 | 163 | 195 | 211 | 230 |
| Higher Executive Officer | 70 | 71 | 65 | 79 | 84 |
| Senior Executive Officer | 165 | 188 | 189 | 193 | 196 |
| Grade 7 | 83 | 94 | 107 | 106 | 111 |
| Grade 6 | 65 | 66 | 74 | 87 | 98 |
| Senior Civil Servants | 72 | 84 | 99 | 100 | 106 |
| Grand Total | 795 | 815 | 873 | 912 | 961 |

### NHS: Finance

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much on average the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency charged for management costs in respect of purchases in each of the last two years. [281599]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency makes no charges to national health service trusts for management costs in respect of purchases. The agency works to a fixed resource budget which is agreed with the Department annually, details of which are published in the annual report and accounts.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage change in the budget for the NHS between 2009-10 and 2010-11 in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms. [281731]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Total net national health service resources in 2009-10 are £102,662 million, and in 2010-11 are £105,824 million. The growth in budget in cash terms is 3.1 per cent., and in real terms is 1.6 per cent (gross domestic product deflators at 23 April 2009).

### Hospitals: Weight Measurement

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of hospitals with accurately calibrated *(a)* electronic measuring chairs, *(b)* beds and *(c)* hoist scales for weighing patients. [280489]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information on the number of hospitals with these weight measuring items is not collected centrally.

### Prescription Drugs

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultations have been conducted in respect of Part IX of the Drug Tariff; how much each consultation cost; what changes have been made to part IX of the drug tariff as a result; and what estimate he has made of changes to expenditure from the public purse as a result of the changes. [280859]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Six consultations were conducted in respect of part IX of the Drug Tariff, the last of which closed in September 2008.

It is not possible to provide a cost for each consultation. However, costs for the entire review (since it began in 2005) were around £3.7 million. These costs were for the services of professional advisers. The Department's other costs are part of its ongoing operational budget.

When it began in 2005, the part IX review included not only arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology appliances, and related services, but also the provision of chemical reagents and some dressings in primary care.

The work was conducted in two phases:

Phase 1: reimbursement prices for chemical reagents and some dressings: new levels of reimbursement were implemented in part IX of the Drug Tariff in October 2006; and

Phase 2: arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in primary care: the new arrangements relate to reimbursement prices and remuneration for services. Details of these new arrangements were provided to the House by way of a written ministerial statement on 1 April 2009. An overview was also placed in the Library. The new arrangements will be implemented from 1 April 2010, subject to amendment regulations being laid, and directions made, in due course.

The overall review of part IX has delivered significant savings to the national health service.

Phase 1 of the review, which involved the reduction in reimbursement prices for chemical reagents and some dressings, saved £45.5 million between October 2006 and November 2008.

For phase 2 of the review, the reduction in reimbursement prices for part IXA (catheter), IXB and IXC appliances will deliver an estimated saving of £4.5 million in 2010-11. In addition, the suspension of the price increase mechanism to October 2010 for part IXA (catheter), IXB and IXC appliances will deliver an additional estimated saving of £10.9 million. Due to the new remuneration arrangements for part IX appliances, it is estimated that additional costs in 2010-11 will be £19.7 million. Exact costs and savings will depend on the number of items dispensed.

### Prostate Cancer: Medical Treatments

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information is provided in advance to men *(a)* considering and *(b)* starting hormone therapy for the treatment of prostate cancer; [280883]

(2) how many men have been treated for adverse affects from hormone therapy for the treatment of prostate cancer in each of the last five years; [280884]

(3) what support services his Department provides for men undergoing hormone therapy for the treatment of prostate cancer; and whether he plans to increase the level of those services. [280885]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the treatment of prostate cancer, including hormone therapy, is available on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/pathways/prostatecancer/Pages/Landing.aspx

This also provides links to a number of other useful websites, including the Prostate Cancer Charity, UK Prostate Link and Cancer Research UK, where more detailed information is available.

The Cancer Reform Strategy (2007) acknowledges the importance of all patients with cancer receiving information at each stage of the patient pathway. The National Cancer Action Team has been working with a number of cancer charities, the cancer networks and over 30 national health service trusts to develop national cancer patient information pathways, which make information available to health professionals to offer to patients at key points in their cancer journey.

Information for men considering or starting hormone therapy for prostate cancer is covered in the national cancer information pathway for prostate cancer, which has been developed with input from Cancer Backup, Cancer Research UK and the Prostate Cancer Charity. This information pathway currently offers over 70 publications covering a range of topics relating to prostate cancer, including hormone therapy. It includes information on why, how and when hormone therapy is given, the types of hormone therapy available and potential side effects. In addition, individual trusts may have local information on hormone therapy to offer to men.

The national cancer information pathways are currently being piloted in 71 sites, and national roll out of an electronic information delivery system is expected to take place in 2010.

Information on the number of men who have been treated for adverse effects of hormone therapy for prostate cancer is not collected centrally.

Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning services to meet the health care needs of their local populations, including support services for patients.

In 2008, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published clinical guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer. The guidelines recommend that men with prostate cancer should have the opportunity to make informed decisions about their care and treatment, in partnership with their healthcare professionals. This guidance also makes recommendations on the use of hormonal therapy in the treatment of prostate cancer, and the management of any complications. It is available on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11924

### Tranquillisers

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 391-94W, on tranquillisers, for what reasons the number of prescriptions for the anti-epileptic drugs clobazam and clonazepam dispensed increased in 2008. [279384]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The data available do not include any information other than the volume and costs of the prescription items.

No additional analysis has been made of the reasons for these increases.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 23 June 2009*

## JUSTICE

### Archway Tower

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Office of the Public Guardian on future employment at Archway Tower, London, N19; and if he will make a statement. [281473]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Chief Executive and Public Guardian continues to provide me with regular updates on the progress of the OPG's change plans, including those for the Archway Tower office.

Archway Tower currently has three occupiers: the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG), the Court of Protection (administered by Her Majesty's Courts Service) and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). The OPG's plans concerning its future operating model and structure are distinct from the ongoing activities of the Court and CAFCASS.

It has become increasingly clear that the success of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 will continue to generate very significant future demand for the services of the OPG. As a result, the OPG has begun developing its strategy to ensure it is able to offer a high quality service to all of its customers: both now as well as in the future. To enable this strategy, it is planning to move OPG business progressively out of London in order to meet its customers' needs on a more efficient, effective and sustainable footing in the medium to long term.

OPG engages actively with staff and trade unions about its change plans as they develop, particularly where they have a direct impact on teams and individuals. All work force change will be managed in line with the Ministry of Justice work force change policies, as agreed with trade unions.

### Ashwell Prison

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were relocated to other prisons following the disturbance at HM Prison Ashwell on 11 April 2009; and to which prisons they were sent. [272826]

**Maria Eagle:** 424 prisoners were transferred to 26 establishments. The numbers per prison are set out in the following table:

| *Receiving establishment* | *Number of prisoners received* |
|---|---|
| Altcourse | 24 |
| Bedford | 16 |
| Birmingham | 6 |
| Bullingdon | 20 |
| Dovegate | 14 |
| Durham | 20 |
| Forest Bank | 30 |
| Full Sutton | 2 |
| Garth | 10 |
| Hewell | 6 |
| Highdown | 14 |
| Holme House | 20 |
| Leeds | 30 |
| Leicester | 2 |
| Lincoln | 6 |
| Liverpool | 34 |
| Manchester | 20 |
| Peterborough | 12 |
| Preston | 28 |
| Ranby | 12 |
| Shrewsbury | 14 |
| Stocken | 24 |
| Wellingborough | 6 |
| Whitemoor | 16 |
| Woodhill | 24 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 14 |
| Total | 26 |

### Complaints

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1252W, for what reasons his Department decided not to collect centrally data on complaints about ClearSprings properties received by his Department and its agencies. [281161]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice holds information on the number of ClearSprings properties about which complaints have been received. Correspondence sent to the Director of Offender Management offices in the 10 regions of England and Wales and to the contractor is the responsibility of those offices and is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Only those letters sent to the Ministry of Justice headquarters are held centrally.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280923]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007, this answer gives the estimate of the carbon dioxide emissions from offices for the year 2007-08. The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide information on carbon dioxide emissions from offices for 2006-07 without incurring disproportionate costs.

The estimate the Ministry of Justice made of (i) total carbon dioxide emissions from its offices was 12,043 tonnes and (ii) per full-time equivalent (FTEs) member of staff was 3.2 tonnes based upon 3,741 FTEs. This information is for Ministry of Justice headquarters only as all other parts of the estate have non-office buildings within their returns.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport used for administrative operations by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281048]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007, this answer gives the total figures for 2007-08. The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide an estimate of carbon dioxide emissions for road-based transport in 2006-07 without incurring disproportionate costs.

The estimated amount of carbon emissions arising from road-based travel for administrative operations for the year 2007-08 was 9,789.7 tonnes $CO_2$. The figure per full-time equivalent (FTE) member of staff in 2007-08 was 0.1 tonnes $CO_2$ based upon 93,385 FTEs (core Department plus Executive agencies).

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281049]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007, this answer gives the figure for 2007-08. The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide the carbon dioxide emissions from air travel by staff in 2006-07 without incurring disproportionate costs.

The estimate the Ministry of Justice made of (i) total carbon emissions arising from air travel by staff in 2007-08 was 1,139 tonnes $CO_2e$ and (ii) per full-time equivalent (FTE) member of staff was 0.012 tonnes $CO_2e$ based upon 93,385 FTEs (core Department plus Executive agencies).

### Departmental Work Experience

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281521]

**Mr. Wills:** No centrally co-ordinated internships (paid or unpaid) have been awarded in the past six months. Business areas may have offered internships, but this information is not collated centrally and could be determined only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry of Justice participates in the summer placement schemes co-ordinated by the Cabinet Office (these are paid internships). This year, seven placements have been arranged; six through the Ethnic Minority Summer Development Programme and one through the Disability Summer Placement Scheme. The placements will start later in June and July.

### Legal Aid

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many defendants were unrepresented in cases heard in each magistrates' court in each of the last three years; [281302]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of unrepresented defendants as a result of the recent changes in the rules on eligibility for legal aid; [281303]

(3) how many representations he received in response to his recent consultation on means testing in Crown court cases; and how many of those submissions were *(a)* in support of and *(b)* against the introduction of such testing. [281304]

**Bridget Prentice:** Currently no data are collected from the magistrates courts about numbers of unrepresented defendants.

There have been no recent changes to the rules on eligibility for criminal legal aid. Moreover, the introduction of means testing will not alter eligibility for legal aid in the Crown courts. Everyone who applies to be legally aided in the Crown court will be granted it. There is however a risk that the introduction of means testing to the Crown court will result in an increase in unrepresented defendants, as some people may decide to represent themselves rather than pay a contribution. This issue will be carefully monitored during the 'early adopter' phase and as part of the post-implementation review following national roll out.

The recent consultation on Crown court means testing received a total of 48 responses. Over two thirds of respondents (34 in all) either explicitly supported or implied in their comments that they supported the principle that those who can afford to pay towards their defence costs should be asked to do so.

### Mentally Disturbed Offenders: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many criminals were diagnosed with a mental illness in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years. [280874]

**Phil Hope:** I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally.

### Offenders: Cannabis

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (1) Vietnamese *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have been (i) arrested and (ii) charged for offences related to cannabis production in the last three years; [278936]

(2) how many individuals of each nationality have been charged with offences relating to cannabis production in the last three years. [278941]

**Claire Ward:** Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on arrests does not include nationality of the person arrested. We collect data in line with Cabinet Office advice and this identifies self-defined ethnicity (16+1) as the appropriate recording method and this does not include nationality.

### Prison Accommodation

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many category B prisoners are currently held in category C prisons; and how many category C prisoners are held in category D penal establishments. [276258]

**Maria Eagle:** Category C prisoners are not held in category D prisons. All prisoners are assessed as to their risk of escape or abscond, which ensures allocation of prisoners to a prison providing appropriate levels of security. Only those considered suitable would be held in category D open conditions. Those same procedures ensure that category B prisoners are not allocated to category C prisons, and that all prisoners are held in an establishment of the security category to which they have been assigned.

Prisoners re-categorised to a higher category would be held in the prison's segregation unit until such time as they could be moved to more appropriate accommodation.

The correct categorisation and allocation, balancing security issues and the needs of the prisoner, helps prisoners to use their sentences constructively, to tackle their offending behaviour and to prepare for their eventual release. All prisoners must be placed in the lowest security category consistent with the needs of security and control and the need to protect the public. Prisoners of a higher security category would not, as a matter of course, be held in an establishment of a lower category. The only exceptions to this will be where prisoners are re-categorised, and then await a move to a different establishment.

## Prison Sentences

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 81W, on prison sentences, what the average length of time in custody served by offenders sentenced to two months' imprisonment *(a)* before sentencing and *(b)* after sentencing was in the latest year for which figures are available. [280431]

**Claire Ward:** In 2007, the average time spent in custody for those prisoners sentenced to two months imprisonment was around 20 days before sentencing and around 26 days after sentencing.

If a prisoner is sentenced to a two-month prison sentence, they will serve one month in custody after the date of sentence, unless they have served time in custody on remand prior to sentence or are eligible for earlier release under the End of Custody Licence scheme (ECL). Prisoners serving less than four weeks are not eligible for consideration for early release under the ECL scheme.

The averages presented above include (a) those offenders who are not remanded into custody before sentencing and therefore serve the full one month in custody following sentence (or less if released early under ECL); (b) others who spend some time remanded to custody prior to sentencing and therefore serve less than 1 month in custody following sentence; (c) a small number of offenders who spend one month or more remanded to custody prior to sentencing, and are therefore released on the day of sentence because they have served the custodial period of their two-month sentence while on remand.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Prisoner Escapes

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* category B and *(b)* category C prisoners have escaped from prison in each of the last 12 years; and how many such offenders remain at large. [281155]

**Maria Eagle:** Escapes from prison have been falling for over a decade and 2008-09 saw the lowest level of prison escapes since records began. The data in the following table show escapes of category B and C prisoners in England and Wales in each of the last 12 years and broken down by year, and showing incidents where a prisoner remains at large.

*Escapes of category B and C prisoners by year, showing those remaining unlawfully at large*

| | *Category B prisoners* | *Category C prisoners* | *Offender remaining at large* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | — | 13 | — |
| 1998-99 | — | 8 | 2 |
| 1999-2000 | — | 12 | 1 |
| 2000-01[a] | — | 5 | — |
| 2001-02 | 6 | 5 | — |
| 2002-03 | — | 2 | 1 |
| 2003-04 | — | 3 | 1 |
| 2004-05 | — | 10 | — |
| 2005-06 | — | 2 | — |
| 2006-07 | — | 1 | — |
| 2007-08 | — | 3 | 1 |
| 2008-09 | — | — | — |

*Notes:*
1. includes male adult prisoners categorised to B or C but excludes all others including uncategorised remand prisoners, and those such as women and young offenders who are not categorised at B or C.
2. There has not been an escape of a category A prisoner since 1995.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Figures on escapes and a range of other prison performance statistics are available at:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10004423prison_escapes_jan09.pdf

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1339W, on prisoner escorts: prisoner escapes, for what offences each of the 13 prisoners who are still at large had been convicted. [281156]

**Maria Eagle:** Key performance indicator escapes from Prison Service escorts have fallen since 2002-03, with current low levels sustained for some years. This is despite considerable increases in population over the same period. The following table shows a breakdown of the 13 prisoners still unlawfully at large by offence type.

*Offence type of prisoners unlawfully at large following an escape from escort, April 2004 to March 2008*

| *Offence type* | *Total figure* |
|---|---|
| Drug offences | 1 |
| Burglary | 5 |
| Conspiracy to murder | 1 |
| Theft | 2 |
| Breach of community order | 1 |
| Actual Bodily Harm | 1 |
| Driving while disqualified | 1 |
| Wounding with intent: GBH | 1 |

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Figures on escapes from escort contractors and a range of other prison performance statistics are available at:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10004425category_a_escapes_jan_09.pdf

## Prisoners

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much on average it cost to keep a *(a)* category A, *(b)* category B and *(c)* category C prisoner in prison in 2008. [281346]

**Maria Eagle:** Unit costs are calculated on the basis of category of prison establishment, not on the basis of category of prisoner. Figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

For 2007-08 the average costs per prisoner in prisons categorised as A, B or C were as follows:

*Total cost per prisoner for 2007-08*

| *Establishment category* | £ |
|---|---|
| Male dispersal (cat A) | 75,000 |
| Male category B | 38,000 |
| Male category C | 33,000 |

*Notes:*
1 Rounded to the nearest £500
2 Establishments are categorised by their main role as at the end of 2007-08. Establishments that have more than one role have been placed in the category that represents the primary or dominant function of the prison. For example HMP Moorland is designated as Category C adult but includes a large young offender population.
3. Includes contracted out prisons.

There are a number of factors which will cause differences in prison costs, such as the size, age, location and category of the prison, the mix of prisoners (including gender and age) and the internal regime and rehabilitation work followed.

The costs comprise *(a)* the public sector establishments' direct resource expenditure as published in the HMPS Annual Report and Accounts, which are increased by an apportionment of costs borne centrally by HMPS and the National Offender Management Service and *(b)* the resource expenditure of contracted-out prisons also increased by certain costs borne centrally. This involves some estimation. Income from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in respect of services recharged to the YJB is excluded in order to show the overall cost to the Ministry of Justice. The figures do not include prisoners held in police and court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government departments (e.g. for health and education). The prisoner escort service is included.

## Probation

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation officers and *(b)* probation service officers were employed by Dyfed Powys Probation Area at 31 March in each of the last five financial years. [281438]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table shows the numbers of Probation Officers and Probation Service Officers in post in the Dyfed Powys Probation Trust on 31 March in each of the last five financial years:

| | *Probation Officers*[1] | *Probation Service Officers*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 43.7 | 36.2 |
| 2004-05 | 46.7 | 39.9 |
| 2005-06 | 46.3 | 50.0 |
| 2006-07 | 49.8 | 53.3 |
| 2007-08[3] | 51.1 | 47.0 |

[1] Probation Officer figures include Senior Probation Officers, Senior Practitioners and Probation Officers.
[2] Probation Service Officers figures include Probation Service Officers and Treatment Managers.
[3] The information provided has yet to be published and may therefore be subject to minor amendment upon publication.
*Notes:*
Figures are shown as full time equivalents.
Figures for the year 2008-09 are not yet available.
The figures presented are full time equivalent which take into account part-time staff. Total probation staffing (expressed as full time equivalents) was up from 13,968 in 1997 to 20,869 by June 2007 a 49 per cent. increase over the period. This is also in the context of a 70 per cent. increase in probation funding in real terms over the last 10 years and an increase of more than a third in staff.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* community and *(b)* custody caseload for Dyfed Powys Probation Area was at 31 March in each of the last five financial years. [281450]

**Maria Eagle:** The total community and pre release custodial offender caseload for Dyfed Powys as at 31 March in each of the last five years was as follows:

| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Supervised in community[1] | 1,031 | 1,051 | 1,088 | 1,072 | 1,254 |
| Supervised in custody | 252 | 272 | 290 | 291 | 294 |

[1] Includes those supervised on court orders as well as post-release supervision.
*Notes:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.
Total probation staffing (expressed as full time equivalents) was up from 13,968 in 1997 to 20,869 by June 2007 a 49 per cent. increase over the period. This is also in the context of a 70 per cent. increase in probation funding in real terms over the last 10 years and an increase of more than a third in staff.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders resident in Dyfed Powys Probation Area were categorised as Tier 4 in each of the last five financial years. [281451]

**Maria Eagle:** The total number of offenders in Dyfed Powys probation area who were categorised as tier 4 as at 31 March in each of the last three years was as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 321 |
| 2007 | 323 |
| 2008 | 223 |

Information on tier prior to 1 April 2005 was not recorded.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the 100 additional probation officers to be recruited by the London Probation Service in the next two years will be newly-qualified trainees. [280504]

**Maria Eagle:** London Probation plan to recruit over 140 probation officers by November 2010. These will be predominantly successful trainees although some more experienced probation officers may seek employment in London for personal and professional reasons. The number of these types of application cannot be predicted.

### Probation Boards: Finance

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which probation boards are operating in a budget deficit; and what each deficit is. [262523]

**Maria Eagle:** Unaudited management accounts show that five probation boards are reporting a budget overspend for the financial year ended 31 March 2009, as follows:

| | *£000* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Dorset | 50 | 0.5 |
| North Yorkshire | 249 | 2.4 |
| Surrey | 36 | 0.3 |
| South Yorkshire | 58 | 0.2 |
| North Wales | 22 | 0.2 |

This must be seen in the context of underspends by other probation boards and trusts, resulting in a provisional £17 million (1.9 per cent.) underspend for the 42 probation areas in 2008-09.

While any overspends are potentially of concern in a challenging economic and financial environment, the relatively small size of the overspends in the table and the significant underspend nationally demonstrates effective financial planning by the probation service as a whole in 2008-09.

### Probation: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget was allocated to the Hampshire probation area in each of the last five years. [281379]

**Maria Eagle:** The resource budget allocations for Hampshire probation area for 2004-5 to 2008-09 are shown in the following table.

As a result of changes to the budget allocation methodology, plus machinery of government changes and accounting methodology changes, it is difficult to compare figures over a long period.

*Hampshire probation area end-year budgets*

| | *Revenue (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 25,614 |
| 2007-08 | 24,338 |
| 2006-07 | 23,057 |
| 2005-06 | 21,872 |
| 2004-05 | 20,026 |

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation service officers and *(b)* probation officers there were in the Hampshire probation area in each of the last five years. [281380]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table shows the numbers of Probation Officers and Probation Service Officers in post in Hampshire Probation Area on 31 March in each of the last five financial years:

| | *Probation Officers*[1] | *Probation Service Officers*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 178.6 | 125.4 |
| 2004-05 | [3]88.9 | 121.1 |
| 2005-06 | 194.9 | 156.8 |
| 2006-07 | 195.0 | 179.6 |
| 2007-08[3] | 185.7 | 192.4 |

[1] Probation Officer figures include Senior Probation Officers, Senior Practitioners, Practice Development Assessors and Probation Officers.
[2] Probation Service Officers figures include Probation Service Officers and Treatment Managers.
[3] The information provided has yet to be published and may therefore be subject to minor amendment upon publication.
*Notes:*
Figures are shown as full time equivalents.
Figures for the year 2008-09 are not yet available.
The figures presented are full time equivalent which take into account part time staff.

### Probation: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* community and *(b)* custody caseload of Humberside Probation Trust was on 31 March in each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [280690]

**Maria Eagle:** The total community and pre release custodial offender caseload for Humberside as at 31 March in each of the last five years was as follows:

| | *Supervised in community*[1] | *Supervised in custody* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 2,519 | 1,277 |
| 2005 | 2,647 | 1,264 |
| 2006 | 2,893 | 1,214 |
| 2007 | 2,940 | 1,224 |
| 2008 | 3,080 | 1,295 |

[1] Includes those supervised on court orders as well as post-release supervision.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Total probation staffing (expressed as full-time equivalents) was up from 13,968 in 1997 to 20,869 by June 2007 a 49 per cent. increase over the period. This is also in the context of a 70 per cent. increase in probation funding in real terms over the last 10 years and an increase of more than a third in staff.

### Reoffenders: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate for offenders in each age group in the Hampshire probation area was in each of the last five years. [281381]

**Maria Eagle:** The local reoffending figures are produced by aggregating the data of four snapshots of the probation caseload at the end of each quarter. Therefore the number of offenders quoted in the following table is approximately four times the number of offenders on the caseload at any one time.

*Local adult reoffending rates for Hampshire*

| *Reoffending period covered by cohort* | *Number of offenders* | *Actual reoffending rate (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 | 19,460 | 9.69 |
| 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 | 19,665 | 9.83 |

The local reoffending rate is not broken down by age band.

Local adult reoffending rates by probation area are not available for periods prior to 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008.

Further details on local adult reoffending are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/local-adult-reoffending-2008-ii-pdf

### Youth Justice

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms his Department uses to measure the effectiveness of referral orders in the youth justice system; and what assessment he has made of that effectiveness. [281233]

**Maria Eagle:** The most relevant measure on referral orders is reoffending rates. Data on reoffending rates for 2007, the most recent year figures are available, show that the proportion of juveniles that reoffended following a referral order was 40.5 per cent. The frequency rate of reoffending shows that these offenders committed an average of 117.6 offences per 100 offenders. These are the lowest reoffending rates of all juvenile court imposed sentences.

Reoffending rates for different sentences should not be compared to assess the relative effectiveness of these sentences, as there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics or other factors that may affect both reoffending and the type of sentence given.

A juvenile cohort study on the effectiveness of all juvenile sentences for under-18s, which includes the referral order, is due to report next year.

## DEFENCE

### Archaeology

**Mr. Breed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria his Department uses in deciding whether to fund archaeological and cultural heritage projects; and if he will make a statement. [281169]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** There are three main criteria used by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in deciding whether to fund projects: compliance with legislation; compliance with planning policy obligations; and the Department's commitment to be a good practice exemplar in the management of its historic estate. These are balanced against the funding and delivery of defence capability.

As a landowner MOD has a legal responsibility for the care of designated heritage assets. We work closely with statutory bodies to identify and prioritise work resulting from the regular assessment of the condition of heritage assets.

**Mr. Breed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has his Department has spent on archaeological and cultural heritage projects in each of the last five years. [281170]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The MOD has no separate budget to fund archaeological and cultural heritage projects. Funding is embedded within several budget areas, such as existing maintenance, minor new works and project budgets, according to its legislative, planning and policy commitments. Any funding is balanced against the delivery of defence capability.

**Mr. Breed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department takes to ensure the preservation of archaeological and cultural heritage sites on land it owns; and if he will make a statement. [281171]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has formally adopted the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate (2003) and 'The Disposal of Historic Buildings (1999)'. This approach supports the effective management and sustainable conservation of all its heritage assets, balanced against the delivery of defence capability.

Performance measurement on the condition of heritage assets is reported on a biennial basis within MOD's Heritage Report. The 2005-07 report is available on the Defence Estates website found at the following link:

http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk/publications/corporate/MODHeritageReport2005-2007final.pdf

There are three aspects of the management of these assets: management and maintenance of the estate; new construction; and liaison with other Government Departments.

On management and maintenance, the condition of all listed buildings and scheduled monuments is assessed on a four and five year basis respectively. Recommendations are integrated into maintenance and management plans for the asset concerned. Where an asset is considered to be at risk we develop a strategy in conjunction with our heritage partners, local planning authorities and customers.

A sustainability appraisal is undertaken for each new estate construction project. Heritage issues are managed as part of the design and construction process. Relevant planning consents are obtained in accordance with heritage legislation.

A formal engagement framework is in place covering liaison with statutory heritage bodies, but we also discuss specific cases with them. As a major stakeholder in the

heritage sector, the MOD has also contributed to the development of wider policy and legislation in this area, including the Heritage Protection Bill and the Government's Vision Statement for the Historic Environment.

The Department's 2007-09 Heritage Report is due to be published in the next few months and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Armed Forces: Training

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* percentage and *(b)* actual shortfall of each equipment type used for pre-deployment training is. [279948]

**Bill Rammell:** The pre-deployment training inventory of equipment includes hundreds of items ranging from existing core holdings to those procured specifically for current operations. A breakdown to the level asked in the question would incur disproportionate cost. It is, however, possible to provide representative figures for major classes of equipment:

*Dismounted Close Combat (DCC) equipment*

Availability ranges from above 90 per cent. for small arms to below 50 per cent. for complex items such as night vision equipment and Osprey body armour. The situation continues to improve; 75 per cent. of the funded requirement is expected to be met by December 2009 and 100 per cent. by mid-2010.

*Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) procured vehicles*

The availability of these new types of vehicles is improving from the current figure of just below 50 per cent. As the pace of delivery increases this year, at least 80 per cent. of the funded training fleet for Mastiff, Ridgback and Jackal are expected to be available by November and 100 per cent. is expected to be available by mid-2010.

*Existing vehicles modified to Theatre Entry Standard (TES)*

Vehicles such as Panther, Viking, Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) and Warrior come from the existing fleet of vehicles; there is no shortage for training and crews and users are largely already qualified and practised in their use. There are some shortages in the number of vehicles specifically modified to TES; availability ranges from below 50 per cent. (CVR(T)) to nearly 60 per cent. (Panther).

Our priority has always been to get new equipment to the front line as quickly as possible for use by personnel facing the greatest danger. However, we have looked to ensure that sufficient new equipment is provided for troops during pre-deployment training so that they can use it safely and effectively on arrival in theatre. We have recently introduced measures to reinforce this, and all new Urgent Operational Business cases now include a clear requirement that sufficient numbers of pre-deployment vehicles be procured and delivered for training before they are deployed operationally.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers from his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279510]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280516]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not held in the format requested. However, the Ministry of Defence's annual consumption data for electricity and gas for the period 2004-05 to 2007-08 are provided in the following table:

| | *kWh (weather corrected)* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Electricity* | *Gas* |
| 2004-05 | 2,012,300,237 | 4,162,748,822 |
| 2005-06 | 1,854,817,283 | 3,643,914,281 |
| 2006-07 | 1,827,263,259 | 3,551,585,995 |
| 2007-08 | 1,777,378,124 | 3,076,839,697 |

The 2008-09 consumption figures for electricity and gas are not yet available but will be reported later in the year in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate return.

The figures quoted in the table reflect conversion factors applied by the Office of Government Commerce.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280566]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The second Permanent Under-Secretary in her role as Sustainable Development champion has overall responsibility for energy efficiency on the Ministry of Defence estate.

### Departmental Equipment

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of equipment procured by his Department was produced in the UK in each year since 1997. [281918]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** We do not hold information on the proportion of equipment produced in the UK.

We have, however, produced an estimate of the proportion of MOD equipment expenditure spent with UK prime contractors. This information is set out in the table. Information prior to 2002-03 is not held in the format requested.

| *Financial year* | *Percentage MOD equipment expenditure with UK industry* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 84 |
| 2003-04 | 83 |
| 2004-05 | 81 |
| 2005-06 | 81 |
| 2006-07[3] | 80 |

*Note:*
VAT exclusive at current prices (£ million).
*Source:*
Defence Analytical Services and Advice analysis of data contained in "Table 1.9 and 1.9a of UK Defence Statistics".

### Departmental Land

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of land owned by his Department is rated as *(a)* Grade 1 and *(b)* Grade 2 agricultural land. [281919]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Information on the grading of agricultural land is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Low Flying: Complaints

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints have been received by the Low Flying Complaints and Enquiries Unit from residents of *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each month in the last five years. [280430]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Air Staff Low Flying Complaints and Enquiries Unit (AS LF CEU) record statistics by low flying areas (LFA), not by the country in which they occur. In most cases the attribution is simple, however, some LFAs, LFA 13,16, and 20T cut across the England/Scotland border and LFA 9 cuts across the England/Wales border. In these cases we have attributed the complaints to the country in which the majority of the LFA lies. It would not be cost effective to try and break these figures down further. Northern Ireland has only been included in the UK low flying system since the termination of Op Banner. Figures have therefore only been provided since 1 August 2008; prior to that the majority of flying in the province was deemed to be operational. Copies of the requested information have been placed in the Library of the House.

### Military Bases

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider *(a)* reducing the frequency of grass cutting on his Department's military bases and *(b)* developing wildflower meadows in such locations as a contribution to the Government's targets for biodiversity. [281753]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The extent to which opportunities to encourage wildlife on grassed areas can be implemented is dictated by the requirements of the site. It is our policy that within the constraints of safety, security and establishment requirements, every opportunity should be taken in grassed areas of the Defence estate to provide habitat for wildlife and plant species. This includes wild flower meadow habitat where this is feasible and appropriate.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many anti-social behaviour orders Newtownabbey Borough Council applied for in each year since 2004. [280638]

**Paul Goggins:** The hon. Gentleman may wish to write to the chief executive of the council for this information.

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many anti-social behaviour orders are in force in Northern Ireland. [280639]

**Paul Goggins:** The relevant authorities have notified 95 antisocial behaviour orders to the Northern Ireland Office since they were made available on 25 August 2004. Of these 95, 49 are currently still in force.

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many anti-social behaviour orders were issued in Northern Ireland in each year since 2004. [280640]

**Paul Goggins:** The relevant authorities have reported 95 antisocial behaviour orders to the Northern Ireland Office since they were made available on 25 August 2004.

A breakdown of the 95 antisocial behaviour orders issued since 2004 is shown in the following table:

| | *Number issued* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 9 |
| 2006 | 32 |
| 2007 | 23 |
| 2008 | 28 |
| 2009 | 3 |

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many anti-social behaviour orders Larne Borough Council applied for in each year since 2004. [280641]

**Paul Goggins:** The hon. Gentleman may wish to write to the chief executive of the council for this information.

### Police Service of Northern Ireland: Reserve Forces

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his policy is on the retention of a reserve police force in Northern Ireland. [281736]

**Paul Goggins:** The Government accepted the recommendations of the Patten Commission that there should be an enlarged part-time reserve, with additional officers coming from areas where there was under-representation, and remain committed to that aim. Recruitment to the PTR is primarily a matter for the Chief Constable in consultation with the Policing Board.

At the same time, the Government accepted Patten's recommendation, echoing the Royal Ulster Constabulary's own Fundamental Review, that the full-time reserve should be phased out, if the security situation allowed. A programme of severance was negotiated and agreed so that all officers will have left the service by 31 March 2011.

The Chief Constable's assessments of policing needs and of the security situation inform his decision about the number of full-time reserve officers that is required at any time. The Chief Constable last week recommended that, following his recent review, the current programme of phasing out of the FTR should continue.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of reserve police officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [281737]

**Paul Goggins:** That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Police Federation of Northern Ireland on the number of reserve police officers in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [281738]

**Paul Goggins:** The Secretary of State meets the Chief Constable on a regular basis to discuss policing and security issues.

The Secretary of State has met representatives of the Police Federation twice in the last six months to hear directly their views on areas of interest to their members, including their concerns about the continuing programme of phasing out of the full-time reserve. The Federation is also in regular contact with officials, including at the quarterly meetings of the Police Advisory Board for Northern Ireland, at which the future of the FTR has been discussed.

Decisions on the future of the full-time reserve will continue to be made by the Chief Constable in light of his assessment of the security situation and policing needs.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Election Candidates

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission has assessed the merits of requiring parliamentary candidates to make full financial disclosures at the point at which they became a candidate; and if he will make a statement. [281784]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission currently has no powers to require such disclosures. A new requirement of this nature would need legislation and is therefore a matter for Parliament. The Electoral Commission has previously commented that, while a new requirement could increase transparency in respect of unsuccessful candidates, it would also impose new administrative burdens on all candidates, and on those responsible for administering the new requirement.

## WALES

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what representations he has received on the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Environment) Order 2009 since its publication for pre-legislative scrutiny; and if he will make it his policy to publish those representations on his departmental website. [281900]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he has appointed a special adviser since taking office. [281456]

**Mr. Hain:** I have now appointed two special advisers.

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Clergy: Ordination

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what procedure the Church of England follows to seek approval by the Prime Minister of candidates for senior clergy appointments to be recommended to Her Majesty the Queen. [281191]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** For diocesan bishoprics, the Archbishop of the Province sends to the Prime Minister the name of a candidate chosen by the Crown Nominations Commission (which consists of the archbishops, six members elected by the General Synod, six members elected by the Vacancy in See Committee of the vacant diocese, and the Prime Minister's Secretary for Appointments and the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments as non-voting members).

For suffragan bishoprics, the Archbishop of the Province forwards the diocesan bishop's nomination to the Prime Minister. At present two candidates must be nominated, though by convention the first is always chosen. A measure which will be presented to the General Synod for Final Approval this July (and if approved will be presented for parliamentary approval and Royal Assent in the usual way) will change the law so that in future only one candidate will be nominated. The process leading to the bishop's nomination includes interviews by an advisory group.

For deaneries, the Archbishop of the Province forwards to the Prime Minister the name of a candidate chosen by a selection panel of five voting members, chaired by a lay person appointed by the archbishop and including the diocesan bishop, a lay member elected by and from the bishop's council, a member of the college of canons elected by and from the college, and a priest with experience of cathedral ministry. The Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary and the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments are non-voting members of the panel.

For residentiary canonries, the diocesan bishop sends to the Prime Minister the name of the candidate chosen by him after a selection process which follows guidelines adopted by the House of Bishops.

The Prime Minister advises Her Majesty either to nominate those concerned for formal election by the college of canons of the vacant diocese (in the case of diocesan bishoprics) or to appoint them to the suffragan see, deanery or residentiary canonry concerned.

Further details of the processes involved may be found on the Church of England website at:

www.cofe.anglican.org/info/asa/senappt

### Stem Cells: Research

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the Church Commissioners' policy is on investment in companies which fund embryonic stem cell research. [281888]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The Church Commissioners adopted a revised policy on investment in companies involved in human embryonic stem cell research in 2008 following new advice from the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group. As long as no international ban on human reproductive cloning exists, the Church Commissioners will not invest in companies, a major part of whose business—defined as over 25 per cent. of turnover—is engaged in the cloning of human embryos. This exclusion also covers companies which use cloning techniques to create cybrids and chimeras combining animal eggs with human DNA.

In addition, the Ethical Investment Advisory Group, acting on behalf of the Church's investing bodies, engages with companies involved in, or deriving significant use from, research using human embryonic stem cells. In such engagement the Ethical Investment Advisory Group represents the Church's position, namely that such research should be undertaken only when absolutely necessary once all other possible avenues have been explored and the mystery and sanctity of the human embryo are respected.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners if the Church Commissioners will withdraw their investments from companies which fund embryonic stem cell research. [281889]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The Church Commissioners do not invest in companies, a major part of whose business—defined as over 25 per cent. of turnover—is engaged in the cloning of human embryos or of cybrids and chimeras which combine animal eggs with human DNA. No changes to this policy are under consideration.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many breaches of information security there have been at the Government Equalities Office since its creation. [281059]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Since its creation on 12 October 2007, there have been no breaches of information security within the Government Equalities Office.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many press officers the Government Equalities Office has employed in each year since its inception; and what the cost of her Office's press office was in each such year. [280727]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** Since its creation on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has employed the following press office staff at the costs shown in the following table.

| | *Number of press office posts* | *Number of press office staff employed* | *Total staff costs (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 2 | 2 | 5,738 |
| 2008-09 | 2 | [1]5 | 155,970 |
| 2009-10 | 3 | 3 | [2]25,618 |

[1] Some of the staff employed were on short-term contracts
[2] As at 30 May 2009

### Domestic Violence

**Dr. Naysmith:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what contribution the Government Equalities Office has made to the cross-Government consultation, 'Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls; and what steps her Office is taking to ensure adequate funding for specialist voluntary sector organisations dealing with violence against women. [281411]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office is closely involved with the cross-Government consultation 'Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls', as is my Department's advisory non-departmental public body, the Women's National Commission.

Government expect the majority of funding to specialist voluntary sector organisations dealing with violence against women to come from local bodies, such as local councils and health bodies. In general, funding decisions for local services are determined by local commissioners who are well-placed to identify local needs. Addressing domestic and sexual violence will be a key priority in helping local partnerships to deliver fully on the Public Service Agreement requirements.

The 'Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls' consultation closed on 29 May 2009. A key theme for consultation was the promotion of better consistency and quality of provision of services for victims of violence against women and girls. This work will be taken forward during development of a cross-Government strategy.

### Government Equalities Office: International Women's Day

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on promoting International Women's Day 2009. [279364]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office did not spend any money on promoting International Women's Day 2009.

The Ministers for Women led a debate in the House of Commons on 5 March 2009 on 'Support for women through the economic downturn and for the future' to mark International Women's Day.

### Males: Domestic Violence

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many centres for male victims of domestic violence have been opened in each month in each of the last five years. [279361]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The provision of services to victims of domestic violence is a local issue; local decision makers are best placed to assess local needs. The majority of services are delivered through local providers who are supported and funded by local bodies, such as local councils and health organisations. As such, the Government do not collect information centrally on the number of services available for victims of domestic violence.

However, the Government do take the issue of domestic violence very seriously and since 1997 have taken significant steps to combat it. The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 was designed to be deliberately gender neutral and we expect all victims of domestic violence to be taken seriously by all services. The Government are funding a Men's Advice Line (0808 801 0327) which has been specifically set up to support male victims of domestic violence.

In addition, the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) programme has continued to expand and the Government are committed to increasing the number of SDVCs to 128 by 2011. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences are currently operational in over 200 areas, and will be rolled out nationally by 2011. Furthermore, in 2008-09 we provided over £6 million to support the roll-out of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs).

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many full-time equivalent members of staff of the Government Equalities Office are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on *(a)* project management, *(b)* legacy planning, *(c)* project oversight and *(d)* financial oversight; and what plans she has for future staffing levels in each case. [279812]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Government Equalities Office does not have any staff working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### Rape: Victim Support Schemes

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many organisations have applied for funding to the Special Fund for rape crisis centres for 2009-10; and how much such funding has been applied for. [281439]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Special Fund for the sexual violence voluntary sector closed for applications on 5 June 2009 by which time 52 applications had been received. Of these, 51 are eligible for consideration for funding.

An initial assessment indicates that the total of these 51 applications is £2,322,468.49. Each application will be assessed against the published criteria for support from the fund and applicants informed in due course of the outcome.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Climate Change

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to adapt its activities to climate change in the last two years. [277647]

**Joan Ruddock:** All Government Departments are actively involved in the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which aims to help society adapt to climate change. The aim of the programme is to develop and provide a comprehensive evidence base, including adaptation tools, to raise awareness of the need to adapt, to measure success and to work across Government at all levels to embed adaptation. Further details about the programme's work can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

As well as working together to tackle issues that affect all Departments and their work, each Government Department is adapting to climate change in its own operations and policies. Simultaneously, DECC is working to improve the sustainability of the Department and its operations, and to reduce its carbon emissions.

### Coal Health Compensation Scheme

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people are receiving assistance under the Coal Health Compensation Scheme. [267736]

**Mr. Kidney:** There are two coal health compensation schemes. The Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease scheme (COPD) and the Vibration White Finger scheme (VWF). The Department received over 760,000 claims in total of which 740,000 have been settled as at March 2009.

There were 592,000 claims registered under the COPD scheme. Of these, over 570,000 have been settled. For VWF, there were 170,000 claims registered, of which 169,000 claims have been settled.

The COPD scheme is due to be substantially completed on 30 November 2009 and the VWF scheme is substantially completed.

### Departmental Surveys

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department plans to undertake a departmental staff survey. [280355]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department will be conducting a staff survey during October 2009.

### Fuel Poverty: Elderly

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what programmes his Department operates to provide assistance to the elderly in fuel poverty; when each was instituted; and how much has been spent under each such programme in each of the last 10 years. [278010]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) (1 April 2008-31 March 2011) is the third three-year cycle of the supplier obligation which began on 1 April 2002 (then known as the Energy Efficiency Commitment). This policy places a carbon saving obligation on the main household gas and electricity suppliers. Suppliers are obligated to achieve a percentage of their carbon saving target (this is at least 40 per cent. in CERT) in a priority group of low income and elderly households. The priority group includes all households with a person aged 70 and over. We do not have powers to oblige suppliers to report their expenditure. However, through independent studies commissioned for cost benefit purposes, we estimate that 60 per cent. of suppliers' expenditure goes to the priority group. We estimate that over the nine years of the obligation, some £2.7 billion will be invested by suppliers in meeting their priority group obligations.

Warm Front is the Government's main scheme for tackling fuel poverty and was instituted in 2000. The scheme has spent in excess of £2 billion on a range of energy efficiency measures including insulation and central heating. Since 2005, over half of the scheme's total budget has been spent on assisting those over the age of 60. The table shows the breakdown of spending in each year for this phase of the scheme. Figures for the last scheme year (2008-09) are not yet available. It is worth noting that in the 2007-08 scheme year alone, over £37 million of the total was spent on helping those over the age of 81.

| *Scheme year* | *Measures spend on clients 60+ (£)* | *Proportion of total measures spend on clients 60+ (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 105,750,589.31 | 56 |
| 2006-07 | 177,189,810.76 | 56 |
| 2007-08 | 196,754,669.07 | 56 |

The total spend in each year since the scheme was instituted is shown as follows:

| | *Total spend (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 72 |
| 2001-02 | 197 |
| 2002-03 | 163 |
| 2003-04 | 164 |
| 2004-05 | 166 |
| 2005-06 | 192 |
| 2006-07 | 320 |
| 2007-08 | 350 |
| 2008-09 | 397 |

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the level of greenhouse gas emissions from the UK was in each year since 1997; and what the percentage change from 1997 was in each year. [264851]

**Joan Ruddock:** The latest 2007 estimates of greenhouse gas emissions were published on 3 February 2009. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is currently publishing the DECC climate change statistics and the 2007 Final UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions National Statistics can be found at the following web address:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/index.htm

The following table shows total greenhouse gas emissions 1997-2007 and also carbon dioxide emissions 1997-2007. Percentage changes in emissions for each year are also shown. These figures have been compiled from the DECC Final UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions National Statistics.

*Changes in all greenhouse gas emissions and carbon dioxide emissions 1997 to 2007*

*Million tonnes $CO_2$ equivalent*

| | *Net $CO_2$ emissions (emissions minus removals)* | *Percentage change from 1997* | *Total greenhouse gas emissions (Kyoto basket)* | *Percentage change from 1997* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 551.6 | — | 709.8 | — |
| 1998 | 553.6 | 0 | 705.4 | -1 |
| 1999 | 543.0 | -2 | 672.7 | -5 |
| 2000 | 551.1 | 0 | 674.7 | -5 |
| 2001 | 562.5 | 2 | 678.2 | -4 |
| 2002 | 544.9 | -1 | 656.4 | -8 |
| 2003 | 556.2 | 1 | 661.1 | -7 |
| 2004 | 555.9 | 1 | 658.6 | -7 |
| 2005 | 553.2 | 0 | 652.8 | -8 |
| 2006 | 551.1 | 0 | 647.9 | -9 |
| 2007 | 542.6 | -2 | 636.6 | -10 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures for carbon dioxide include the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sector (LULUCF), but exclude emissions from UK Overseas Territories.
2. The Kyoto basket total differs slightly from sum of individual pollutants above as the basket uses a narrower definition for the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sector (LULUCF), and includes emissions from UK Overseas Territories.
3. The entire time series is revised each year to take account of methodological improvements in the UK emissions inventory.
4. Emissions are presented as carbon dioxide equivalent in line with international reporting and carbon trading. To convert Carbon dioxide into carbon equivalents, divide figures by 44/12.
5. Figures shown do not include any adjustment for the effect of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EUETS), which was introduced in 2005.

## Low Carbon Buildings Programme

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many certified installers of each type of technology under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme there were in each region of the UK in each month since the programme began; and if he will make a statement. [269645]

**Mr. Kidney:** Currently there are over 250 installer companies registered to carry out work under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP). More installer companies are in the process of being assessed.

Data collected by Low Carbon Buildings Programme managers are now held by month, by technology and by region (see table). These data reflect where installer companies are willing to work and not where they are based.

A list of certified installers by company address, technology, the region they can operate in (but not by month) is available on the Low Carbon Buildings Programme website at:

http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/info/installers/find/installerfind

*Numbers of LCBP installers per region*

| | Region | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Technology* | *Eastern* | *East Midlands* | *London* | *North East* | *North West* | *South East* | *South West* | *West Midlands* | *Yorks and Humber* | *Northern Ireland* | *Scotland* | *Wales* |
| *September 2006* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar PV | 29 | 32 | 36 | 24 | 27 | 35 | 33 | 35 | 26 | 22 | 22 | 29 |
| Solar Thermal | 70 | 73 | 76 | 62 | 68 | 96 | 91 | 77 | 61 | 45 | 64 | 68 |
| Wind Turbines | 32 | 34 | 31 | 34 | 36 | 33 | 35 | 36 | 32 | 31 | 35 | 35 |
| GSHP | 27 | 26 | 25 | 29 | 30 | 28 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 33 | 34 | 26 |
| Hydro | 11 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 14 | 11 |
| Biomass Boiler | 19 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 24 | 21 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 22 | 20 | 27 |
| Biomass Stoves | 12 | 15 | 14 | 11 | 15 | 14 | 18 | 18 | 14 | 15 | 12 | 20 |
| *December 2006* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar PV | 18 | 21 | 23 | 18 | 21 | 23 | 25 | 26 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 24 |
| Solar Thermal | 94 | 89 | 93 | 74 | 79 | 116 | 110 | 92 | 71 | 54 | 73 | 79 |
| Wind Turbines | 37 | 39 | 36 | 40 | 41 | 38 | 40 | 43 | 38 | 36 | 40 | 41 |
| GSHP | 30 | 28 | 27 | 31 | 32 | 30 | 32 | 29 | 28 | 35 | 35 | 29 |
| Hydro | 11 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 14 | 11 |
| Biomass Boiler | 24 | 28 | 26 | 29 | 31 | 27 | 30 | 31 | 30 | 27 | 28 | 33 |
| Biomass Stoves | 17 | 21 | 19 | 20 | 22 | 20 | 23 | 23 | 21 | 19 | 20 | 25 |
| *April 2007* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar PV | 33 | 36 | 39 | 29 | 32 | 39 | 39 | 40 | 31 | 23 | 24 | 35 |
| Solar Thermal | 111 | 113 | 113 | 89 | 97 | 138 | 134 | 111 | 91 | 60 | 95 | 95 |
| Wind Turbines | 50 | 53 | 48 | 53 | 54 | 49 | 50 | 56 | 52 | 43 | 54 | 51 |
| GSHP | 40 | 38 | 36 | 41 | 44 | 39 | 43 | 38 | 37 | 41 | 47 | 39 |
| Hydro | 12 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 15 | 12 |
| Biomass Boiler | 30 | 35 | 32 | 33 | 36 | 33 | 36 | 37 | 35 | 29 | 35 | 39 |
| Biomass Stoves | 23 | 28 | 25 | 24 | 26 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 26 | 21 | 26 | 30 |
| *June 2008* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar PV | 63 | 63 | 63 | 62 | 63 | 63 | 63 | 63 | 63 | 63 | 63 | 63 |
| Solar Thermal | 149 | 149 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 150 | 149 |
| Wind Turbines | 64 | 64 | 64 | 63 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 |
| GSHP | 56 | 56 | 56 | 55 | 56 | 56 | 56 | 56 | 56 | 56 | 56 | 56 |
| Hydro | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Biomass Boiler | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 |
| Biomass Stoves | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 |

*Numbers of LCBP installers per region*

| | Region | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Technology* | *Eastern* | *East Midlands* | *London* | *North East* | *North West* | *South East* | *South West* | *West Midlands* | *Yorks and Humber* | *Northern Ireland* | *Scotland* | *Wales* |
| *September 2008* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar PV | 69 | 69 | 69 | 68 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 |
| Solar Thermal | 153 | 152 | 154 | 153 | 153 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 153 | 152 |
| Wind Turbines | 67 | 67 | 67 | 66 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 |
| GSHP | 60 | 60 | 60 | 59 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| Hydro | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Biomass Boiler | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 35 | 34 |
| Biomass Stoves | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 28 |
| *October 2008* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar PV | 69 | 69 | 68 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 |
| Solar Thermal | 154 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 154 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 154 | 153 |
| Wind Turbines | 67 | 67 | 66 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 |
| GSHP | 61 | 61 | 60 | 61 | 61 | 61 | 61 | 61 | 61 | 61 | 61 | 61 |
| Hydro | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Biomass Boiler | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 33 | 32 |
| Biomass Stoves | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 27 | 26 |
| *November 2008* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar PV | 74 | 74 | 74 | 73 | 74 | 74 | 74 | 74 | 74 | 74 | 74 | 74 |
| Solar Thermal | 163 | 162 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 163 | 162 | 163 | 162 |
| Wind Turbines | 67 | 67 | 67 | 66 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 |
| GSHP | 66 | 66 | 66 | 65 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 66 |
| Hydro | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Biomass Boiler | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 34 | 33 |
| Biomass Stoves | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 28 | 27 |
| *December 2008* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar PV | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 |
| Solar Thermal | 167 | 166 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 167 | 166 | 168 | 166 |
| Wind Turbines | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| GSHP | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| Hydro | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Biomass Boiler | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 35 | 34 |
| Biomass Stoves | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 28 |
| *January 2009* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar PV | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 |
| Solar Thermal | 176 | 175 | 177 | 177 | 177 | 175 | 175 | 175 | 176 | 175 | 177 | 175 |
| Wind Turbines | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| GSHP | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| Hydro | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Biomass Boiler | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 38 | 37 |

*Numbers of LCBP installers per region*

| | Region | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Technology* | *Eastern* | *East Midlands* | *London* | *North East* | *North West* | *South East* | *South West* | *West Midlands* | *Yorks and Humber* | *Northern Ireland* | *Scotland* | *Wales* |
| Biomass Stoves | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 31 |
| *February 2009* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar PV | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 |
| Solar Thermal | 180 | 180 | 182 | 182 | 182 | 181 | 181 | 180 | 181 | 180 | 182 | 180 |
| Wind Turbines | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 77 |
| GSHP | 84 | 84 | 84 | 84 | 84 | 84 | 85 | 84 | 84 | 84 | 84 | 84 |
| Hydro | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Biomass Boiler | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 39 | 38 |
| Biomass Stoves | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 33 | 32 |
| *March 2009* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solar PV | 89 | 89 | 89 | 88 | 88 | 89 | 89 | 88 | 88 | 88 | 88 | 88 |
| Solar Thermal | 189 | 189 | 191 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 189 | 189 | 189 | 191 | 190 |
| Wind Turbines | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 |
| GSHP | 88 | 88 | 88 | 88 | 88 | 88 | 89 | 88 | 88 | 88 | 88 | 88 |
| Hydro | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Biomass Boiler | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| Biomass Stoves | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 |

## Warm Front Scheme

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints he has received from hon. Members about Warm Front in each of the last two years. [265996]

**Joan Ruddock:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 4 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 632W.

## Warm Front Scheme: East of England

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many houses in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire constituency, *(c)* the East of England region and *(d)* Peterborough have had insulation installed under the Warm Front scheme in each of the last five years. [281162]

**Mr. Kidney:** The following table details the numbers of homes insulated by Warm Front in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* Peterborough during the current phase of the Warm Front Scheme (beginning 2005). Prior to 2005, this area of the scheme was managed by a different scheme manager and comprehensive data are not available. North West Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are all constituencies which make up the figures for the East of England and therefore the number of households assisted is also included in this total figure.

| *Area/scheme year* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North West Cambridgeshire | 40 | 150 | 123 | 137 |
| Cambridgeshire | 261 | 907 | 900 | 822 |
| East of England | 2,809 | 8,980 | 10,161 | 10,825 |
| Peterborough | 50 | 157 | 146 | 203 |

## Warm Front Scheme: Essex

**Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* applications for and *(b)* awards from the Warm Front scheme there were for those resident in Essex in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [260379]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following table provides details on (a) the number of eligible applicants to Warm Front in Essex since 2005 and *(b)* the number of households assisted in each financial year available.

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eligible applications | 5,361 | 8,793 | 11,009 | 12,374 | 37,537 |
| Assisted households | 3,437 | 6,990 | 8,516 | 9,803 | 28,746 |

*Note:*
Figures prior to 2005 are not available as Essex came under the jurisdiction of another scheme manager and the data retained are not sufficient.

## TRANSPORT

### Air Passenger Duty

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many passengers travelled by air to destinations that would now be classified as Air Passenger Duty Bands *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C and *(d)* D in 2008. [280153]

**Paul Clark:** The following table shows the number of passengers who travelled by air to destinations that would now be classified as air passenger duty (APD) bands A, B, C and D in 2008.

| *APD band* | *Passengers (million)* |
|---|---|
| A | 92.8 |
| B | 16.8 |
| C | 6.3 |
| D | 2.0 |

*Notes:*
1. Band A includes domestic flights.
2. APD is not paid on flights departing 'from' airports in the Scottish Highlands and Islands.

*Source:*
DfT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data.

### Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what directions his Department issues on the procedures to be followed for the maintenance and servicing of aircraft flown by commercial operators from UK airports. [280120]

**Paul Clark:** The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) is responsible for the development of regulatory procedures to ensure the continued airworthiness of all UK and European registered aircraft, which are engaged in commercial operations. The Civil Aviation Authority is empowered by the Department for Transport to carry out checks and inspections with a view to ensuring that UK operators comply with EASA procedures.

Foreign aircraft flying to or from the UK require permission from the Secretary of State for Transport and it is a condition of obtaining his permission that they comply with safety standards promulgated by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The Department for Transport operates a programme of ramp checks to ensure that ICAO standards are being adhered to and we are currently increasing our number of annual checks to some 1,000 in 2009-10. Where foreign aircraft are found to fall short of ICAO standards, we will take action to ensure that they remedy the deficiencies, up to and including removing their permission to fly here. We will also refer such airlines to the European Union's Air Safety Committee, which has the power to impose a Europe-wide ban.

### Aviation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the International Civil Aviation Organisation on reviewing the Extended Range Twin-Engine Operations dispensation. [280074]

**Paul Clark:** Civil aviation safety in the UK is regulated by independent aviation safety regulators: the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) which is responsible for aircraft design and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Extended Range Twin-Engine Operations (ETOPS) was developed to enable twin-engined aircraft to fly the same direct routings as aircraft with three or four engines and has been in existence since 1985. It has an excellent safety record and last year the International Civil Aviation Organisation set up a Special Operations Task Force to consider whether some of the aeroplane certification, maintenance and operational procedures that are required for an ETOPS approval should be extended to three and four-engined operations. The CAA is represented on the taskforce, the work of which is ongoing.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will estimate the likely effect of an increase in the average cost of a domestic flight by one-third on passenger numbers. [280154]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport's "UK Air Passenger Demand and $CO_2$ Forecasts", published in January 2009, reports the elasticity of domestic demand with respect to air fares in table 2.1, page 17. The report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/

This elasticity determines the responsiveness of domestic demand for air travel to changes in fares, before airport capacity constraints have been accounted for.

No estimate of the effect on passenger demand of an increase of one-third in the domestic air fare is available.

### Aviation: Safety

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has discussed with the Civil Aviation Authority the replacement of pitot tubes of the type used by the aircraft involved in the Air France flight 447 crash with alternative designs. [279703]

**Paul Clark:** Civil aviation safety in the UK is regulated by independent aviation safety regulators: the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) which is responsible for aircraft design and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

EASA continues to review the reliability of the pitot tubes used by the aircraft involved in the Air France flight 447 crash. The CAA is in regular contact with EASA and UK industry on this issue to ensure timely action is taken if and when necessary.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many A330 and A340 planes using UK airports use pitot tubes of the same type as the aircraft involved in the Air France flight 447 crash to assist in the measurement of airspeed. [279704]

**Paul Clark:** Civil aviation safety in the UK is regulated by independent aviation safety regulators: the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is responsible for the regulation of aircraft design, and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The pitot tubes fitted to the Air France Flight 447 Airbus A330 aircraft meet the current EASA design requirements, and are therefore a common feature of many Airbus aircraft that utilise UK airports. EASA continues to review the reliability of these pitot tubes. The CAA is in regular contact with EASA and UK industry to ensure timely action is taken if and when necessary.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on the reliability of equipment for measuring air speed used in A330 and A340 aircraft in the last two years. [279705]

**Paul Clark:** Civil aviation safety in the UK is regulated by independent aviation safety regulators: the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is responsible for the regulation of aircraft design, and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). As such, the Department for Transport does not undertake or commission research in this area.

EASA continues to review the reliability of pitot tubes by collecting data on the dependability of their air speed measurements. The CAA is being kept informed of developments.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279490]

**Chris Mole:** Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of letters to his Department from hon. Members' Parliamentary offices were answered within 30 days of the date of receipt in each quarter from January 2008 to March 2009. [280467]

**Chris Mole:** The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2008 was published on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 80-86WS.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281084]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department. The figures provided here for lost and stolen laptop computers do not include losses or thefts where records are not available, where equipment has not been procured centrally, or where such losses or thefts were not reported.

The total number of laptop computers recorded as lost and stolen from the central Department since January 2004 is 14.

The number of laptop computers recorded as lost and stolen from the Department's Executive agencies since January 2004 is 91.

### DVLA: Disclosure of Information

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many requests for information in respect of the registered keeper of a vehicle were made to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) in 2008-09; how many of those were received *(a)* in electronic form and *(b)* by post from (i) DVLA-accredited trade associations, (ii) non-DVLA-accredited car park operators, (iii) individuals and (iv) others; and how many in each such category were (A) accepted and (B) refused. [280158]

**Paul Clark:** The following tables provides the information requested where it is available.

| | | *Of which:* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | *Submitted electronically* | *Submitted by post* |
| Requests for information received during 2008-09 | 21,115,951 | 18,318,355 | 2,797,596 |
| (i) Requests from car parking operators who are members of a DVLA accredited trade association | [1]— | 1,480,044 | [1]— |
| (ii) Requests from car parking operators who are not members of a DVLA accredited trade association | [1]— | 0 | [1]— |
| (iii) Requests from individuals | [1]— | 0 | [1]— |
| (iv) Requests from others (local authorities, police, Transport for London, etc.) | [1]— | 16,838,311 | [1]— |

[1] Information not available separately.

Of all these requests:

| | | *Of which:* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total* | *Submitted electronically* | *Submitted by post* |
| Those accepted | 21,070,722 | 18,318,355 | 2,752,367 |
| Those refused | 45,229 | 0 | 45,229 |

Applications for information in respect of the registered keeper are not received from accredited trade associations but rather from their members.

### East Coast Railway Line

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the premium payments announced in respect of the Inter City East Coast rail franchise were based on the assumption that unregulated fares would rise by RPI plus 2.1 per cent. [281139]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* As indicated when the Inter City East Coast rail franchise was awarded in August 2007, NXEC had indicated that they may wish to raise unregulated fares over the course of the franchise by an average of retail prices index plus 2.1 per cent. per annum.

The levels of unregulated fares are a commercial matter for individual train operators. For business planning purposes, operators may make assumptions of any projected changes to unregulated fares, but this is a matter for the operator concerned.

### Kemble-Swindon Railway Line

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to receive the report on the evaluation of the re-doubling of the Swindon-Kemble line; and if he will make a statement. [281361]

**Chris Mole:** Network Rail is undertaking an initial study to design and price a scheme to re-instate a second track between Swindon and Kemble. The study is expected to report in 2010.

### Lorries

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent research his Department has conducted on the prevalence of colour blindness among heavy goods vehicle drivers; and if he will make a statement. [281636]

**Paul Clark:** There has been no recent research undertaken on the prevalence of colour blindness in HGV drivers.

### M1

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reason the M1 motorway was closed between junctions 6 and 8 on 11 June 2009; who authorised the closure; and if he will make a statement. [281741]

**Chris Mole:** Hertfordshire police closed the M1 Motorway between Junctions 6 and 8 northbound on the 11 June 2009 as a member of the public, who had climbed onto a gantry, stated he would jump if a vehicle passed underneath.

### M25: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the roadworks and lane closures between junction 16 and junction 19 of the M25 to be ended. [281739]

**Chris Mole:** The roadworks and lane closures on the M25 between junctions 16 and 19 are scheduled to end in summer 2011.

The current roadworks between junctions 16 and 18 form part of the first phase of the widening and are scheduled to be completed in summer 2010.

The second phase of widening will then take place between junctions 18 and 21 commencing in summer 2010 and is scheduled to complete in summer 2011.

### M40

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reason the M40 motorway was closed on 11 June 2009; who authorised the closure; and if he will make a statement. [281743]

**Chris Mole:** The link road between M40 northbound and M42 southbound was closed overnight between 00.45 and 04.40 hours on 11 June, for the installation of electronic queue detection equipment.

The link road between M42 northbound and M40 southbound was closed overnight between 21.55 on 11 June to 03.37 on 12 June for routine road maintenance comprising white lining and road stud renewal.

Both closures were authorised by the Highways Agency under a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order, published in accordance with statutory procedures. They were advertised in local newspapers and signs notifying drivers of the closures were installed in advance of the start of works.

Highways Agency policy is to carry out works of this type during off-peak periods when traffic volumes are at their lowest, so that the least disruption is caused to road users.

### Motorcycles: Accidents

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many moped riders aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19 and *(e)* 20 years old were (i) injured and (ii) killed in road traffic accidents (A) in the London Borough of Wandsworth, (B) in London and (C) England in each of the last five years. [281368]

**Paul Clark:** The number of (i) injured casualties and (ii) fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents for moped riders aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19 and *(e)* 20 years old in (A) London borough of Wandsworth, (B) London and (C) England for each of the last five years is given in the following table:

*Number of injured and fatal casualties by age of moped riders[1] in Greater London, London borough of Wandsworth and England: 2003-07*

*Number of casualties from injury accidents reported to the police*

| | | *London borough of Wandsworth[2]* | | *Greater London[2]* | | *England* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Age* | *Injured* | *Killed* | *Injured* | *Killed* | *Injured* | *Killed* |
| 2003 | 16 | 8 | 0 | 141 | 0 | 1,718 | 5 |
| | 17 | 2 | 0 | 74 | 0 | 787 | 4 |
| | 18 | 1 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 288 | 0 |
| | 19 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 145 | 3 |
| | 20 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 99 | 1 |

*Number of injured and fatal casualties by age of moped riders[1] in Greater London, London borough of Wandsworth and England: 2003-07*

| | | *Number of casualties from injury accidents reported to the police* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *London borough of Wandsworth[2]* | | *Greater London[2]* | | *England* | |
| | *Age* | *Injured* | *Killed* | *Injured* | *Killed* | *Injured* | *Killed* |
| 2004 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 129 | 0 | 1,827 | 10 |
| | 17 | 5 | 0 | 74 | 0 | 848 | 2 |
| | 18 | 2 | 0 | 47 | 0 | 277 | 1 |
| | 19 | 2 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 141 | 1 |
| | 20 | 1 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 95 | 0 |
| 2005 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 149 | 1 | 1,807 | 3 |
| | 17 | 2 | 0 | 99 | 1 | 847 | 4 |
| | 18 | 2 | 0 | 67 | 0 | 246 | 2 |
| | 19 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 1 | 132 | 2 |
| | 20 | 3 | 0 | 36 | 0 | 89 | 1 |
| 2006 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 92 | 0 | 1,802 | 8 |
| | 17 | 2 | 0 | 72 | 0 | 758 | 9 |
| | 18 | 1 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 198 | 2 |
| | 19 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 136 | 0 |
| | 20 | 1 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 68 | 0 |
| 2007 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 1,684 | 4 |
| | 17 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 742 | 2 |
| | 18 | 2 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 228 | 1 |
| | 19 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 136 | 0 |
| | 20 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 1 | 96 | 1 |

[1] Motorcycles with engine size of 50 cc or less.
[2] Source: Transport for London.

The 2008 statistics will be available on 25 June 2009.

### Motorcycles: Driving Instruction

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many moped riders aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19 and *(e)* 20 years old took compulsory basic training in (i) England, (ii) the London Borough of Wandsworth and (iii) London in each of the last five years. [281369]

**Paul Clark:** The Driving Standards Agency does not hold records on how many individual moped riders took a compulsory basic training course in the manner requested.

### Motorcycles: Licensing

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19 and *(e)* 20 year-olds resident in (i) the London Borough of Wandsworth, (ii) London and (iii) England hold a provisional moped licence. [281370]

**Paul Clark:** The following table provides the total number of provisional moped licence holders by age and location. The percentage against total residents in these areas is not available to the Department for Transport:

| | | | *Wandsworth* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Age* | *England* | *London* | *SW15* | *SW18* | *SW19* |
| 16 | 56,791 | 3,554 | 19 | 29 | 32 |
| 17 | 315,346 | 17,801 | 195 | 179 | 264 |
| 18 | 267,336 | 22,332 | 217 | 224 | 288 |
| 19 | 229,826 | 23,571 | 208 | 207 | 271 |
| 20 | 211,974 | 23,351 | 213 | 207 | 250 |

### Motorways

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if the Secretary of State will make it his policy to ensure that traffic information on motorway closures is given out to motorists at the earliest opportunity via *(a)* radio broadcasts and *(b)* digital road information signs; and if he will make a statement. [281740]

**Chris Mole:** It is already our clear policy to do so. The Highways Agency aims to inform customers as quickly as possible about traffic conditions and incidents on the motorway and trunk road network, using many channels. Information is provided directly to the media through dedicated services such as the Highways Agency's website—Traffic England—which carries comprehensive and up-to-date information, and the agency now operates its own DAB radio service—Traffic Radio—giving continuously updated news and information about the network. The agency also aims to keep the messages on its roadside variable message signs as accurate, reliable and helpful to the travelling public as possible.

### Railways: East Midlands

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the premium payments announced in respect of the East Midlands rail franchise awarded to Stagecoach in June 2007 were based on an assumption that unregulated fares would rise by on average of RPI plus 3.4 per cent. [281138]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* As indicated when the East Midlands franchise was awarded in June 2007, the planning assumption made in the Stagecoach bid was that unregulated fares would increase, on average, by retail prices index plus 3.4 per cent. per annum.

The levels of unregulated fares are a commercial matter for individual train operators. For business planning purposes, operators may make assumptions of any projected changes to unregulated fares, but this is a matter for the operator concerned.

### Railways: Electrification

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding his Department is planning to provide for the electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak rail line; and if he will make a statement. [281471]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* In January 2009 the Department for Transport made an offer to contribute a capital sum towards the cost of the electrification of the Gospel Oak to Barking line conditional on Transport for London (TfL) taking forward the project, including working up a business case, finding the balance of the cost and bearing all risks.

The Department's contribution could be up to £25 million, the amount depending on as yet undefined savings against the budget for the North London Line Camden Road freight scheme announced last year.

TfL has now indicated that there is now little likelihood that it could undertake to fund and bear the risks of the electrification scheme.

### Railways: Finance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much capital funding the Government has allocated to the rail network in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [281850]

**Chris Mole:** The information is not available in the form requested. A breakdown of annual expenditure by mode and region is available in the Department for Transport's annual report and details of total historic expenditure are available in National Rail Trends which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation. Copies of these documents are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Railways: Hearing Impaired

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department has taken to make railway stations accessible to deaf and hard of hearing people in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [281698]

**Chris Mole:** Since 2006 around £12.4 million has been offered from the Access for All Small Schemes Fund for projects at stations benefiting deaf and hard of hearing people. These have included induction loops at 317 stations, new customer information systems at 146 stations, improved signage at 198 stations, help points at 404 stations and information boards and screens at 39 stations.

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department has taken to encourage rail franchisees to make services accessible to deaf and hard of hearing people in the last five years. [281699]

**Chris Mole:** All rail franchisees are required to have a Disabled Persons' Protection Policy, which sets out how they will assist disabled passengers to use their services. This includes commitments that all on-train and station passenger information systems will give both aural and visual information where possible, including ad hoc announcements about service delays. In addition, pre-booked assistance lines are required to have a minicom or textphone number available.

Any new or upgraded infrastructure at stations must comply with "Accessible Train and Station Design for Disabled people: A Code of Practice", which includes the provision of proper signage and induction loops. All customer facing staff are also required to receive disability awareness training which includes how to assist deaf or hard of hearing passengers.

Since 1998, all new trains have been required to meet modern accessibility standards, which rail franchisees also use as the appropriate standard when undertaking major refurbishment work to older vehicles. Almost 5000 new trains now meet the standards, which include requirements for audio and visual passenger information systems, and door controls that are illuminated when they are operable. Last year, the Government set 1 January 2020 as the date by which time the entire national rail fleet must be accessible.

The winner of the new South Central franchise has also committed to monitor the success of its assisted passengers reservation system, which enables customers to book staff assistance before travelling.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accidents took place where colour blindness was stated as contributing to the cause of the accident in the last 12 months. [280907]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is not available. The police officers do not record colour blindness as a contributory factor to an accident.

### Roads: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal road traffic accidents were recorded on roads in (a) Southampton and (b) Test Valley borough in each of the last five years. [281383]

**Paul Clark:** The number of *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal reported personal injury road accidents recorded on roads in (a) Southampton and (b) the Test Valley borough in each of the last five years is given in the following table:

*Number of accidents*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Southampton* | | | | | |
| Fatal | 6 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Non-fatal | 832 | 824 | 727 | 697 | 699 |
| *Test Valley borough* | | | | | |
| Fatal | 12 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 8 |
| Non-fatal | 410 | 364 | 301 | 345 | 373 |

The 2008 statistics will be available on 25 June 2009.

**Roads: Repairs and Maintenance**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the capital budget of the Highways Agency for *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* enhancement work was in each of the last five years. [280376]

**Chris Mole:** Capital budgets for enhancing the trunk road network including capital maintenance for each of the last five years are set out in the following table:

*£ million*

| | (a) Maintenance capital budget | (b) Capital budget (excluding maintenance) |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 24 | 540 |
| 2005-06 | 39 | 717 |
| 2006-07 | 31 | 1,093 |
| 2007-08 | 30 | 1,030 |
| 2008-09 | 108 | 1,156 |

Capital funds are used for delivering additions and improvements to the road network, and enhancements to the technology assets associated with the network.

The capital maintenance budgets shown above are primarily for renewals of technology equipment on the strategic road network.

In 2008-09, as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review, the capital maintenance budget included an assumption for roads and structures renewals that could be undertaken as part of a Major Scheme improvement. Prior to 2008-09, this would have been classified as resource expenditure. This explains the increase in the indicative budget when compared to previous years.

**Shipping: Pollution**

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what measures his Department plans to implement in respect of *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* other pollution from shipping in the next two years. [280086]

**Paul Clark:** In the next two years the Department for Transport's focus will be on ensuring that the agreement at the Copenhagen conference in December 2009 incorporates an international commitment to address carbon dioxide emissions from the shipping sector, and on working in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to deliver international measures to regulate ship energy efficiency and to achieve agreement on an economic instrument which will achieve reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from shipping.

Turning to other pollutants, we plan to implement the revisions to the international regime governing air pollution from ships which were adopted at the IMO in 2008, and to implement measures to address the management of ships' ballast water.

**Tractors**

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many tractor registrations there were in each year since 1997. [281262]

**Paul Clark:** The number of agricultural tractors newly registered in Great Britain in each year since 2001 were as follows:

| | *Number of agricultural tractors newly registered (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 12.9 |
| 2002 | 15.3 |
| 2003 | 15.9 |
| 2004 | 16.0 |
| 2005 | 15.0 |
| 2006 | 15.5 |
| 2007 | 17.6 |
| 2008 | 19.4 |

Statistics from years prior to 2001 are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Transport**

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he plans to take to improve the main transport routes in the UK. [281605]

**Chris Mole** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* The publication of Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) in November 2008 re-iterated the Department's commitment to serious long term transport planning.

We are investing £15 billion up to 2014 to transform the rail network, redeveloping stations and lengthening platforms. We are also delivering 1,300 extra carriages which will provide around 10,000 extra seats per day.

In January we announced up to £6 billion investment in the national strategic roads network. This will fund schemes on our major motorways including the M1, M6, M25 and M62 and major trunk roads the A1 and A14. This will deliver around 520 additional lane miles including 340 lane miles of hard shoulder running.

We have also set up a company, High Speed Two, to develop proposals for a high speed line to the West Midlands possibly via interchange at Heathrow, with options for links to the North and Scotland.

**Transport: Carbon Emissions**

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the costs and benefits for the transport sector of carbon dioxide emissions trading. [279982]

**Mr. Khan:** The information requested is as follows:

*Aviation*

In preparation for the inclusion of the aviation sector in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) from 2012, the Department has commissioned the following studies:

'Including Aviation into the EU ETS: Impact on EU allowance prices' (2006) commissioned jointly with DEFRA

'A Study to Estimate Ticket price Changes for Aviation in the EU ETS' (2007) commissioned jointly with DEFRA

'The impacts of the use of different benchmarking methodologies on the initial allocation of emission trading scheme permits to airlines' (2007) commissioned jointly with the Environment Agency

'A study to estimate the impacts of emissions trading on profits in aviation' (2007) commissioned jointly with DEFRA.

In addition, the Department has reviewed and considered a wide range of other studies that have been undertaken on the costs and benefits of carbon dioxide emissions trading for the aviation sector.

*Roads*

The Department for Transport has not specifically commissioned research on emissions trading for road transport.

*Shipping*

The Department for Transport has not commissioned or evaluated research exclusively on the costs and benefits of emissions trading in respect of carbon dioxide emissions from ships.

### Transport: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department allocated to transport networks used primarily for tourism in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [280615]

**Mr. Khan:** Funding provided by the Department for Transport to local transport authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. Figures are not available at constituency level.

The Department provides integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities to support capital investment in transport, which may be used for a range of purposes as the authorities see fit. Funding support provided to Essex county council in the last five years is shown in the following table:

*Essex county council*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 33,638 |
| 2007-08 | 34,946 |
| 2006-07 | 30,009 |
| 2005-06 | 31,888 |
| 2004-05 | 26,876 |

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant.

### Transport: Sight Impaired

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with regard to what forms of transport colour-blindness is tested as part of driver proficiency tests. [280906]

**Paul Clark:** The Driving Standards Agency does not test colour-blindness as part of the practical or theory test for any vehicle category.

### Transport: Young People

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to consult young people on decisions relating to transport provision; and what other steps he is taking to increase levels of involvement of young people in decisions affecting their use of transport. [281265]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport's overarching aim is to provide "transport that works for everyone"—including young people, from infants to young adults—through a transport system that balances the needs of the economy, the environment and society.

Most of the Department's research into public attitudes involves understanding the views of young people from 16 years old. The Department proactively leads or participates in widespread consultations with young people, on a formal and informal basis, actively seeking their views on transport plans, issues and concerns. The Department also conducts research and runs consultations on the travel habits of children as well as young adults.

Transport Ministers have regular engagement with young people through organisations such as the UK Youth Parliament (for 11 to 18-year-olds) which regularly discusses key transport issues affecting young people. The Department has also worked with the National Youth Agency to develop ways of making transport more accessible to young people.

The Department educates children on road safety directly and via parents and schools (Think! Campaign). The Department also, through Cycling England, funds training on safer cycling for children, and seeks their views and their parents' views on it.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to answer Question 279865, tabled on 10 June 2009, on the Health and Safety Executive. [281293]

**Paul Clark:** I replied to the hon. Member on 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 297W.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Africa: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that levels of development assistance provided to Africa by his Department are maintained during the economic downturn. [281226]

**Mr. Thomas:** The April 2009 Budget confirmed levels of UK official development assistance originally laid out in the comprehensive spending review of 2007. The Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure in Africa is now projected to be £3.4 billion in 2010-11. This ensures that the UK will deliver on its commitments to Africa made at Gleneagles in 2005.

### Darfur: International Assistance

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the number of humanitarian aid organisations operating in Darfur; and what assessment he has made of their capacity to meet the needs of those who need their assistance. [280636]

**Mr. Thomas:** According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) there are 83 international NGOs and UN agencies working in Darfur. 13 NGOs were expelled on 4 and 5 March 2009. The UK Government have repeatedly called on the Government of Sudan (GoS) to allow all expelled NGOs to return.

Following the NGO expulsions, a joint UN-GoS mission concluded that immediate needs were being met, due to quick action by line ministries, the remaining NGOs, and UN agencies. GoS has committed to filling medium-term gaps in life-saving sectors such as health and water and sanitation. Meanwhile, the UK is monitoring coverage and quality of delivery of partners to scale up activities.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport for administrative operations by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281052]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The carbon dioxide emissions from road-based transport, as reported to the Sustainable Development Commission, were as follows:

| | *Carbon dioxide (tonnes)* | *Per FTE* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 33 | 0.019 |
| 2007-08 | 14 | 0.008 |

This includes ministerial vehicles only.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281061]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** In the last five years there have been 22 breaches of information security.

My Department and its agencies report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the Information Commissioners Office (ICO). Information on personal data security breaches are published on an annual basis in the department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

### Departmental Electricity

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280973]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The percentage of energy derived from renewable sources, as reported to the Sustainable Development Commission, on the UK estate was as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 96.7 |
| 2007-08 | 100 |

### Departmental Energy

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280972]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The amount of energy consumed in our UK estate per full-time equivalent, as reported to the Sustainable Development Commission, is as follows:

| | *kWh* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 7,071 |
| 2007-08 | 6,700 |

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281060]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The Department for International Development's (DFID's) central accounting records detailing write-off and lost information holds the following data in relation to laptop computers:

| *Classification* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lost | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Stolen | 6 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 3 |

All DFID laptops have secure encryption technology and no data have been put at risk. All losses and thefts are investigated by our Business Solutions Division and Security section for breach of security practice.

*(b)* We do not have any agencies.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of waste his Department recycled in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [281051]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The amount of recycled waste, and its proportion of total waste produced, for the Department for International Development's United Kingdom estate was as follows:

| | *Recycled waste (tonnes)* | *As percentage of total waste* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 266 | 80.9 |
| 2007-08 | 214.6 | 81.3 |

### Departmental Waste

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281050]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The amount of waste produced by the Department for International Development's UK estate, as reported to the Sustainable Development Commission, is as follows:

| | *Waste (tonnes)* | *Per FTE* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 329 | 0.19 |
| 2007-08 | 263.9 | 0.15 |

### Departmental Water

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the water consumption on his Department's estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280970]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The water consumption on DFID's UK estate for this period, and thereafter, was as follows:

| | *Water use (cu m)* | *Water use (per full-time equivalent member of staff)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 13,556 | 6.7 |
| 2006-07 | 12,398 | 7.1 |
| 2007-08 | 17,223 | 10.0 |

Our latest figures for 2008-09 show we achieved a significant reduction to 9,341 cubic metres. This was due to a number of initiatives such as waterless urinals and dual flush cisterns. These data are reported annually in the Sustainable Development Commission's Report "Sustainable Development in Government".

### Departmental Work Experience

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281530]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development has not awarded any paid or unpaid internships in each of the last six months.

### G8

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the outcome of the G8 Development Ministers meeting on 11 and 12 June 2009 was; and if he will make a statement. [280688]

**Mr. Thomas:** The meeting highlighted the need for a strong, coherent and coordinated response to the challenges faced by the poorest countries as a result of the economic crisis. It also reaffirmed G8 commitments on increasing official development assistance (ODA) made at previous G8 summits. Development Ministers also agreed to strengthen our accountability to show progress towards meeting existing pledges.

The G8 Development Ministers had a successful meeting discussing the broad spectrum of development issues. This will provide a sound basis for moving forward the development agenda at the G8 Leaders summit in July. For detail of what was discussed and agreed I refer the hon. Member to the "Chairs Summary" of the G8 Development Ministers Meeting, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

### International Assistance: Children

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take towards fulfilment of his commitment to assist children in conflict zones to attend schools. [280649]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Over the period 2002-03 to 2007-08 the Department for International Development (DFID) has more than doubled bilateral support to education in fragile states. In 2007 DFID outlined further plans for increasing support to education for children affected by conflict or living in fragile states. This 2007 announcement by Gordon Brown included commitments to provide financial support for education in specific conflict and post-conflict states. Significant progress has been made in these countries. In Afghanistan DFID has contributed £60 million to the Afghanistan reconstruction trust fund that meets the costs of 100,000 teachers. DFID's total contributions in Afghanistan to date have helped increase the number of pupils in school from two million in 2002 to over 5.4 million. In Somalia, DFID is supporting to date some 18,500 boys and girls in school through partnerships with UNICEF and non governmental organisations (NGOs).

Globally, DFID provides UNICEF with £4 million per year to strengthen UNICEF's humanitarian response, including in the education sector. DFID is also currently working with UNICEF and other development partners to finalise the setting up of a fund, as part of the Fast Track Initiative (FTI) partnership, to support education in countries emerging from conflict and fragility. We will contribute £20 million to this fund.

### Mauritania: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what development assistance his Department has provided to the government of Mauritania in each of the last three years. [281202]

**Mr. Thomas:** Details on the UK's bilateral aid expenditure and imputed share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) are contained in the DFID publication "Statistics on International Development". This publication is available from the Library and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Relevant figures are produced in the following table:

*DFID bilateral expenditure and imputed multilateral expenditure in Mauritania 2005-06 to 2007-08*

£000

| | DFID bilateral expenditure | DFID imputed multilateral share |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 58 | 3,673 |
| 2006-07 | 1,565 | 10,797 |
| 2007-08 | 93 | 3,921 |

### Overseas Aid

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to ensure that UK aid money is used for the needs of the people for whom it is intended. [280604]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) uses established payment and accounting processes to ensure that UK aid money is paid to the intended recipients. Through its core project management systems, DFID then monitors, reviews and evaluates the way in which the funding is used to meet the needs of the poor.

DFID undertakes fiduciary risk assessments to inform its work in all countries to which it provides financial aid. Individual funding proposals then include an indication of how the lessons from these assessments will be applied and how risks will be managed. Individual projects also include a mechanism to provide assurance that funds have been used for the intended purpose: often this will be through independent external audits and reviews commissioned by DFID or by its partners.

Underpinning these processes, DFID's Internal Audit Department reviews the risk management systems and related controls to provide assurance that these are adequate and are operating effectively in practice.

### Timor-Leste: Politics and Government

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to seek to ensure the stability of the political situation in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. [276856]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

Through the UK's membership of the UN Core Group in East Timor, our contributions to the substantial UN and EU assistance programmes and our own more modest bilateral programme of contact and support, we are seeking to reduce Timorese dependence on multilateral interventions and to encourage the development of stronger civil institutions.

Our ambassador to Jakarta and his staff maintain a programme of visits the most recent of which was in March 2009.

### Zimbabwe: Cholera

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the number of people in Zimbabwe who are now in South Africa who have contracted cholera; and what assessment he has made of their access to medical treatment. [280603]

**Mr. Thomas:** According to United Nations figures, as of 15 June, there has been a cumulative total of 98,531 cases of cholera with 4,282 deaths. The situation is now under control and the daily rate of infection has fallen to only a handful of cases. International support, including a £10 million package from the Department for International Development (DFID), has helped to keep essential health systems operating.

### Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his estimate is of the number of refugees from Zimbabwe since the formation of the unity government; what assessment he has made of their access to humanitarian aid; and if he will make a statement. [280601]

**Mr. Thomas:** Zimbabwe's social and economic decline has forced many Zimbabweans to leave the country during the last few years. The vast majority of those leaving do so by irregular means and do not request refugee status. It is therefore difficult to assess their numbers generally or within the specific period since the elections but numbers would probably exceed one million.

Zimbabweans living in South Africa, and those deported back to Zimbabwe, require access to a range of medical, food, shelter and child support services. This is being provided by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Medicins sans Frontières (MSF) and Save the Children. DFID has provided financial support to Save the Children and is the second largest contributor to the IOM.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Digital Broadcasting

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the costs of *(a)* printing and *(b)* distributing paper copies of the Digital Britain White Paper were. [281886]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Digital Britain Report was produced jointly between the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The cost of printing paper copies of the Digital Britain Report was £26,171.22 and the cost of distributing paper copies was £1,888.60 as of 19 June 2009.

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many copies of the Digital Britain White Paper have been printed; how many paper copies were supplied free of charge to *(a)* Parliament and *(b)* other bodies; how many paper copies The Stationery Office has in stock; and whether any further print runs are anticipated. [281887]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Digital Britain Report was produced jointly between the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. 3,500 paper copies of the Digital Britain Report were printed. Of these, 396 paper copies were supplied free of charge to Parliament and 1,578 paper copies have been supplied free of charge to other bodies. The Stationary Office has 121 paper copies in stock and there are no further print runs anticipated.

## National Lottery: Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Lottery funding has been received by each project in receipt of such funding in Chorley in each of the last five years. [281533]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* Lottery awards made to organisations in the Chorley local authority area between 2004-05 and 2008-09 are set out in the following tables:

*Table 1: 2004-05*

| Grant date | Recipient | Grant amount (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 12 April 2004 | The Lancashire African Association | 4,980 |
| 12 April 2004 | South Ribble and Chorley New Media Association | 5,000 |
| 12 April 2004 | Sea Cadet Corps: Chorley Unit 526 | 1,050 |
| 12 April 2004 | Croston Junior Football Club | 4,361 |
| 20 April 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 875 |
| 5 May 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 525 |
| 11 May 2004 | Brothers of Charity 'Friends of Thursday' Club | 3,350 |
| 11 May 2004 | LGBT Community Media | 5,000 |
| 11 May 2004 | Chorley Community Film Makers Association | 5,000 |
| 11 May 2004 | Hurst Green Bungalows Over 60's Committee | 1,325 |
| 25 May 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 300 |
| 8 June 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 780 |
| 8 June 2004 | Coppull Arts and Activities Group | 5,000 |
| 8 June 2004 | St. Peters Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade | 2,169 |
| 8 June 2004 | Chorley and District Mencap Society | 4,781 |
| 10 June 2004 | Heritage Trust for the North West | 1,695,000 |
| 14 June 2004 | Mrs. Prabha Appaji | 5,000 |
| 22 June 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 780 |
| 6 July 2004 | Beechbuds Pre-School | 4,040 |
| 6 July 2004 | The Chorley and District Historical and Archaeological Society | 5,000 |
| 6 July 2004 | Chorley Tennis Club | 4,740 |
| 7 July 2004 | Creative Minds | 7,900 |
| 13 July 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 875 |
| 21 July 2004 | Visual Concepts UK Ltd. | 1,250 |
| 27 July 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 2,100 |
| 3 August 2004 | Clayton Brook Community Group | 4,960 |
| 3 August 2004 | Chorley Community Cinema | 5,000 |
| 5 August 2004 | Age Concern Lancashire | 106,532 |
| 10 August 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 300 |
| 8 September 2004 | Home-Start Chorley and South Ribble | 5,000 |
| 8 September 2004 | Balshaw Lane Community Primary School | 4,284 |
| 8 September 2004 | The Travelling Mulberries | 5,000 |
| 8 September 2004 | Music and Arts for Chorley Youth (M.A.C.Y.) | 4,412 |
| 8 September 2004 | Eccleston Brass Band | 5,000 |
| 23 September 2004 | Brothers of Charity 'Friday Club' | 2,439 |
| 1 October 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 525 |
| 7 October 2004 | Croston Parish Plan Steering Group | 10,286 |
| 14 October 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 525 |
| 14 October 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 2,100 |
| 22 October 2004 | Rivington and Blackrod High School | 4,627 |
| 4 November 2004 | WWII—Memories | 24,930 |
| 4 November 2004 | Age Concern Lancashire | 10,340 |
| 10 November 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 1,050 |
| 10 November 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 7,000 |
| 10 November 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 425 |
| 25 November 2004 | Chorley St. Laurence Historical Society | 5,000 |
| 8 December 2004 | Age Concern Chorley | 9,999 |
| 8 December 2004 | Named Individual | 10,000 |
| 10 December 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 300 |
| 10 December 2004 | Home-Start Chorley and South Ribble | 88,227 |
| 14 December 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 875 |
| 14 December 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 3,475 |
| 21 December 2004 | Chorley Photographic Society | 4,908 |
| 21 December 2004 | Chorley Capers | 5,000 |
| 21 December 2004 | 1st Clayton Brook Beaver Scouts | 3,600 |
| 21 December 2004 | Weldbank Junior Bowling Club | 4,951 |
| 21 December 2004 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 525 |
| 25 January 2005 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 875 |
| 9 February 2005 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 525 |
| 9 February 2005 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 2,100 |
| 23 February 2005 | Whittle-le-Woods Community Hall Trust | 5,000 |
| 23 February 2005 | Chorley Youth Music | 5,000 |
| 23 February 2005 | New Vision Audio Workshops | 5,000 |
| 23 February 2005 | Friends of the River Yarrow | 5,000 |
| 23 February 2005 | Mawdesley Village Hall | 5,000 |
| 23 February 2005 | Euxton Primrose Hill Out of School Club | 4,529 |
| 23 February 2005 | St. Michael's and All Angels (Croston) Parish Church | 4,798 |
| 23 February 2005 | Chorley Borough Cricket Development Group | 4,890 |
| 23 February 2005 | Chorley Trials Club | 3,853 |
| 23 February 2005 | Runshaw College | 5,000 |
| 10 March 2005 | Oceanstorm Films (UK) Ltd. | 750 |

*Table 2: 2005-06*

| Grant date | Recipient | Grant amount (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 26 April 2005 | Rivington Terraced Gardens Project | 8,500 |
| 3 May 2005 | Chorley's Lifestyle Centre for the Over 50s | 1,950 |
| 10 May 2005 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 525 |
| 10 May 2005 | Astley Village Parish Council | 5,000 |
| 10 May 2005 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 875 |
| 10 May 2005 | City of Preston (Junior) Hockey Club | 4,300 |
| 10 May 2005 | ME/CFS Self Help Support Group (Preston) | 4,960 |
| 10 May 2005 | Chorley Hospital Radio | 5,000 |
| 10 May 2005 | Brindle Parish Institute | 2,350 |

*Table 2: 2005-06*

| *Grant date* | *Recipient* | *Grant amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 10 May 2005 | Clayton Brook Community House | 4,990 |
| 8 June 2005 | North Russia Club | 5,600 |
| 10 June 2005 | Named Individual | 500 |
| 10 June 2005 | Oceanstorm Films (UK) Ltd. | 4,000 |
| 15 June 2005 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 1,300 |
| 15 June 2005 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 2,100 |
| 27 June 2005 | Chorley, South Ribble and Districts Citizens Advice Bureaux | 4,500 |
| 28 June 2005 | Totsercise | 4,695 |
| 28 June 2005 | Preston Poets Society | 2,941 |
| 29 June 2005 | Chorley Borough Council | 9,700 |
| 29 June 2005 | Heroes Return Award to an individual | 2,100 |
| 1 July 2005 | The Lancashire Wildlife Trust Ltd. | 139,256 |
| 4 July 2005 | The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside | 47,400 |
| 4 August 2005 | Creative Minds | 7,696 |
| 9 August 2005 | Holy Cross RC High School | 140,000 |
| 15 August 2005 | Bongomagic | 5,000 |
| 15 August 2005 | St. Paul's Amateur Players | 5,000 |
| 15 August 2005 | South West Chorley Community Safety Group | 4,950 |
| 5 September 2005 | Physico Theatre Ltd. | 24,900 |
| 12 September 2005 | The Bolton Astronomical Society | 4,550 |
| 4 October 2005 | Chorley's Lifestyle Centre for the Over 50s | 55,591 |
| 4 October 2005 | Chorley and South Ribble Council For Voluntary Service | 44,317 |
| 4 October 2005 | ME/CFS Self Help Support Group (Preston) | 22,139 |
| 24 October 2005 | Eccleston Heritage Clog | 3,060 |
| 24 October 2005 | Chorley Film Society | 4,489 |
| 24 October 2005 | The Chorley DJ Collective | 5,000 |
| 24 October 2005 | The Chorley Well Women Centre | 3,850 |
| 24 October 2005 | Chorley Youth Dance | 5,000 |
| 24 October 2005 | St. Pauls (Adlington) Nursery | 5,000 |
| 25 November 2005 | Age Concern Lancashire | 295,360 |
| 29 November 2005 | Brindle St. James' Parents, Teachers and Friends Association | 2,000 |
| 29 November 2005 | Preston Pride Basketball Club | 3,952 |
| 29 November 2005 | Croston St. Michael's Scout Group | 3,800 |
| 24 January 2006 | White Coppice Cricket Club | 5,000 |
| 24 January 2006 | Soundworks | 2,195 |
| 24 January 2006 | Ulnes Walton Charitable Fund | 4,995 |
| 8 February 2006 | Horwich R.M.I. Harriers and Athletic Club | 5,000 |
| 8 February 2006 | The Arts Partnership | 88,026 |
| 7 March 2006 | Leyland Lawn Tennis Club | 4,586 |
| 7 March 2006 | Bretherton Out of School Club | 5,000 |
| 7 March 2006 | Rural Community Partnership Trust | 4,910 |
| 7 March 2006 | Brindle Historical Society | 1,600 |
| 20 March 2006 | Leyland Fox Lane Bowling Club | 5,000 |
| 20 March 2006 | Anderton Parish Council | 5,000 |
| 20 March 2006 | Jubilee Concertinas | 3,450 |
| 20 March 2006 | Brindle Parish Institute (Brindle Community Hall) | 4,991 |
| 20 March 2006 | Chorley Cricket Club | 4,985 |
| 20 March 2006 | Moss Side Village Playgroup | 2,894 |
| 20 March 2006 | Charnock Richard Cricket Club | 2,633 |
| 20 March 2006 | Abbey Village Primary School | 4,250 |
| 20 March 2006 | Ormskirk Tennis Club | 2,455 |
| 20 March 2006 | Adlington and District Carnival Committee Limited | 5,000 |

*Table 3: 2006-07*

| *Grant date* | *Recipient* | *Grant amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 11 April 2006 | Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside | 50,000 |
| 9 May 2006 | Function Room | 4,925 |
| 9 May 2006 | Art in Adlington | 4,920 |
| 9 May 2006 | Astley Village Juniors Football Club | 4,853 |
| 31 May 2006 | Chorley Borough Bowls Forum | 3,535 |
| 31 May 2006 | Chorley District Scout Council | 5,000 |
| 31 May 2006 | Croston Community Centre | 4,976 |
| 31 May 2006 | South Lancashire Arts Partnership | 5,000 |
| 31 May 2006 | Chorley Womens Refuge Group | 5,000 |
| 26 June 2006 | Euxton Methodist Scout Group | 4,983 |
| 26 June 2006 | Age Concern Chorley | 4,137 |
| 26 June 2006 | Withnell Fold Primary School | 4,996 |
| 26 June 2006 | Chorley Marlins Amateur Swimming Club | 5,000 |
| 26 June 2006 | Mawdesley Equine and People Trust | 5,000 |
| 26 June 2006 | Sea Cadet Corps: Chorley Unit 526 | 4,750 |
| 26 June 2006 | Rivington and Blackrod High School | 5,000 |
| 26 June 2006 | Mayfield School | 5,000 |
| 26 June 2006 | St. Michael's and All Angels (Croston) Parish Church | 5,000 |
| 26 June 2006 | Heapey Parish Council | 5,000 |
| 26 June 2006 | Age Concern Lancashire | 169,826 |
| 26 June 2006 | Home-Start Chorley and South Ribble | 3,800 |
| 11 July 2006 | Holy Cross Catholic High School | 151,911 |
| 26 July 2006 | Briary Court and Carr Barn Brow Residents Association | 4,869 |
| 26 July 2006 | Starfish | 4,889 |
| 31 August 2006 | 1st Euxton Rof Scout Group | 10,000 |
| 31 August 2006 | Charnock Richard Scarecrow Festival Committee | 2,884 |
| 31 August 2006 | Clayton Thursday Club | 6,800 |
| 25 September 2006 | Chorley and South Ribble M.E. Support Group | 5,000 |
| 26 September 2006 | South Lancashire Arts Partnership | 7,500 |
| 28 September 2006 | Bears Paw Patchers | 1,470 |
| 3 November 2006 | Brothers of Charity Open House | 1,850 |
| 3 November 2006 | Mawdesley Village Planning Committee | 5,445 |
| 3 November 2006 | Black Horse Bowling Club | 10,000 |
| 3 November 2006 | Chorley and District Neighbourhood Watch Association | 5,585 |
| 3 November 2006 | Abbey Village and Brinscall Playgroup | 10,000 |
| 3 November 2006 | Creative Minds | 2,800 |
| 3 November 2006 | Chorley and South Ribble Crossroads—Caring for Carers | 4,055 |
| 3 November 2006 | Chorley Cougars Basketball Club | 3,314 |
| 23 November 2006 | Visual Concepts UK/Martin Talbot | 4,250 |
| 27 November 2006 | Lancashire Care NHS Trust Adult Mental Health In Patient Unit | 10,000 |
| 27 November 2006 | 92 (Chorley) Squadron Air Training Corps | 3,970 |
| 27 November 2006 | Blackburn with Darwen Action Learning Network | 10,000 |
| 27 November 2006 | Chorley and District Choral Society | 4,240 |
| 29 November 2006 | South Lancashire Learning Disability Training Consortium | 22,692 |
| 3 January 2007 | Genesis Workshops | 10,000 |
| 3 January 2007 | Withnell Vs Brinscall | 9,850 |
| 3 January 2007 | Vernon Carus Cricket Club | 8,000 |
| 29 January 2007 | Rivington and Blackrod High School | 20,500 |
| 27 February 2007 | Friends of Cuerden Valley Park | 3,889 |
| 27 February 2007 | Chorley Community Music Consortium | 4,925 |

*Table 3: 2006-07*

| Grant date | Recipient | Grant amount (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 27 February 2007 | Positive Action in Chorley East | 9,940 |
| 8 March 2007 | The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside | 510,000 |
| 27 March 2007 | Adlington Canoe Club | 2,839 |
| 27 March 2007 | The Guide Association Lancashire North West | 5,000 |
| 27 March 2007 | St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School | 3,052 |
| 27 March 2007 | St. Michaels C E High School | 1,000 |
| 27 March 2007 | Valley Brass (Haydock) | 4,428 |
| 27 March 2007 | Pendle Community High School | 4,350 |
| 30 March 2007 | Mawdesley Equine and People Trust | 5,000 |
| 30 March 2007 | Hundred Acre Wood Mother and Toddlers | 4,008 |

*Table 4: 2007-08*

| Grant date | Recipient | Grant amount (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 20 April 2007 | Eccleston Heritage Clog | 40,700 |
| 30 April 2007 | Community Leisure Services Ltd. | 9,500 |
| 30 April 2007 | Rural Community Partnership Trust | 5,000 |
| 30 April 2007 | Chorley Cricket Club | 3,170 |
| 24 May 2007 | Saheliyaan Asian Women's Forum | 5,000 |
| 24 May 2007 | Adlington Venture Unit | 5,000 |
| 24 May 2007 | Brindle Historical Society | 7,821 |
| 24 May 2007 | St. Mary's Chorley Scout Group | 7,630 |
| 24 May 2007 | Croston Pre-School | 8,231 |
| 24 May 2007 | Chorley District Scouts | 5,000 |
| 18 June 2007 | Croston St. Michael's Scout Group | 1,998 |
| 3 July 2007 | Chorley Borough Council | 208,006 |
| 24 July 2007 | Eccleston Scout and Guides Group | 10,000 |
| 24 July 2007 | Brothers of Charity Tuesday Club | 2,100 |
| 27 July 2007 | Home-Start Chorley and South Ribble | 159,972 |
| 14 August 2007 | David Alker and Peter Liddell Alker Liddell | 1,900 |
| 20 August 2007 | Balshaw Lane Community Primary School | 10,000 |
| 20 August 2007 | City of Preston High School | 6,907 |
| 20 August 2007 | Home-Start Chorley and South Ribble | 6,200 |
| 17 September 2007 | Named Individual | 500 |
| 19 September 2007 | Rivington and Blackrod High School | 433,277 |
| 24 September 2007 | Chorley and South Ribble Crossroads—Caring for Carers | 5,945 |
| 24 September 2007 | Girlguiding UK Chor Valley District | 2,945 |
| 17 October 2007 | Lancashire College | 87,263 |
| 23 October 2007 | Starfish | 4,604 |
| 18 December 2007 | St Paul's Amateur Players | 5,000 |
| 18 December 2007 | The Friends of Chorley Quad | 6,915 |
| 21 January 2008 | Tatton Community Group | 9,700 |
| 21 January 2008 | Brindle Parish Institute | 3,149 |
| 21 January 2008 | Chorley Challengers Sports Club | 9,996 |
| 21 January 2008 | Cuerden Valley Park Trust | 10,000 |
| 11 February 2008 | Bretherton and Croston Angling Club | 6,166 |
| 19 February 2008 | Chorley Pals Memorial | 10,000 |
| 19 February 2008 | Inward House Community Projects | 5,000 |
| 19 February 2008 | Gillibrand Primary School | 10,000 |
| 19 February 2008 | Rivington and Blackrod High School | 3,500 |
| 26 February 2008 | Paul Gallagher | 4,770 |

*Table 5: 2008-09*

| Grant date | Recipient | Grant amount (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 7 April 2008 | Music and Arts for Chorley Youth (M.A.C.Y.) | 3,125 |
| 7 April 2008 | Rural Community Partnership Trust | 4,750 |
| 7 April 2008 | Chorley Division Rangers | 9,780 |
| 7 April 2008 | Preston Pride Basketball Club | 6,850 |
| 7 April 2008 | Central Lancashire ME/CFS Support Group | 6,809 |
| 8 April 2008 | Tom Bell T/A Reckless Invention | 10,435 |
| 8 May 2008 | The Lancashire Wildlife Trust Ltd. | 224,639 |
| 8 May 2008 | South Ribble BC (South Ribble CSN) | 137,610 |
| 12 May 2008 | Function Room | 4,966 |
| 12 May 2008 | The Hoghton Players Drama Group | 5,073 |
| 13 May 2008 | Lorraine Berry | 1,159 |
| 30 May 2008 | South Ribble BC (South Ribble CSN) | 30,000 |
| 9 June 2008 | Euxton Youth Cricket Academy | 7,340 |
| 10 June 2008 | Rivington and Blackrod High School | 4,000 |
| 14 July 2008 | Chorley Borough Cricket Development Group | 9,930 |
| 14 July 2008 | Coppull Parish Council | 9,415 |
| 11 August 2008 | Mawdesley Millennium Green Trust | 6,792 |
| 11 August 2008 | Croston and District Boules League | 2,880 |
| 11 August 2008 | Adlington and District in Bloom Action Group | 4,339 |
| 11 August 2008 | Hoghton Women's Institute | 1,033 |
| 15 September 2008 | North West Dance Alliance | 7,200 |
| 15 September 2008 | Canon Slade C of E School | 8,473 |
| 2 October 2008 | Maelstrom Dance | 7,840 |
| 13 October 2008 | Chorley Photographic Society | 7,896 |
| 13 October 2008 | Croston Subscription Bowling Club | 9,920 |
| 13 October 2008 | Brinscall and District Drop In | 975 |
| 13 October 2008 | Croston Parish Council | 3,600 |
| 21 October 2008 | The Arts Partnership | 20,900 |
| 8 December 2008 | Southlands High School | 5,797 |
| 8 December 2008 | Grappenhall Hall School | 6,775 |
| 8 December 2008 | Rainbow House For Conductive Education | 55,250 |
| 19 January 2009 | Eccleston Parish Council | 7,250 |
| 19 January 2009 | Rainbow House For Conductive Education | 10,000 |
| 10 February 2009 | Age Concern Lancashire | 1,200 |
| 10 February 2009 | Help The Homeless (Chorley) Ltd. | 5,000 |
| 10 February 2009 | Eaves Green Residents Group | 10,000 |
| 11 March 2009 | Sea Cadet Corps: Chorley Unit 526 | 6,310 |

These statistics come from the Department's lottery grants database. The database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information on lottery grants supplied by the lottery distributors.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Cameroon: Prisoners

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Cameroon on the recent sentencing of the National Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Southern Cameroons National Council to imprisonment. [279921]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have no plans to make representations to the Government of Cameroon on this specific issue.

However the UK frequently lobbies the Government of Cameroon on freedom of expression and the need to allow peaceful protest.

### Central America: Embassies

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many consular staff his Department employs in each of its embassies in Central America. [280498]

**Chris Bryant:** The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff carrying out consular activities in Central America is 11.5. About 70 per cent. of these staff are locally hired, the remainder being diplomatic service officers. The following table provides the details by post within Central America.

| *Post name* | *Consular FTE* |
|---|---|
| Belmopan | 0.8 |
| San Jose | 2.1 |
| Guatemala City | 2.1 |
| Cancun | 1.0 |
| Mexico City | 4.6 |
| Panama City | 0.9 |

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279504]

**Chris Bryant:** Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of letters to his Department from hon. Members' Parliamentary offices were answered within 30 days of the date of receipt in each quarter from January 2008 to March 2009. [280466]

**Chris Bryant:** The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2008 was published on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 80-86WS.

### Departmental Internet

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 369-72W, on departmental internet, how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions were received by each website operated by his Department in each of the last 12 months. [280726]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office operates over 200 websites. The lists of the number of page views and unique visitors for each website for each of the last 12 months are too unwieldy for *Hansard*. Instead, a copy of this information will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281054]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) maintains a record of all encrypted laptops issued to its staff for the storage and transmission of classified data. Since 2004, two of these laptops have been reported lost or stolen. The FCO's process in these circumstances was followed. Responsibility for the purchase and safe keeping of unclassified laptops is devolved to directorates and posts overseas. As such, it is not possible to provide information on the number of lost or stolen unclassified laptops without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Travel

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on travel in each year since 1997. [273678]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent the following amounts on overseas and UK travel in each of the last five financial years:

| *Financial year* | *Overseas* | £ *UK* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 8,114,225.77 | 866,896.25 |
| 2005-06 | 13,386,273.99 | 1,153,482.09 |
| 2006-07 | 12,546,595.21 | 1,146,012.99 |
| 2007-08 | 14,225,775.77 | 1,159,085.54 |
| 2008-09 | 17,874,037.95 | 1,779,031.12 |

The year on year increase in travel costs are largely due to increases in fuel costs over the period affecting ticket prices.

Obtaining information on costs of travel before this period would incur disproportionate cost.

### Developing Countries: Trade

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on arranging a World Trade Organisation Ministerial meeting in the Doha Development Agenda; and if he will make a statement. [279556]

**Ian Lucas:** I have been asked to reply.

At the London summit G20 leaders renewed their commitment to concluding the DDA, on the basis of the progress made so far. There has been greater engagement from the United States and India, who have an important part to play in the negotiations, following their elections. Technical discussions are continuing among WTO members in Geneva.

The Doha round remains the UK government's top trade priority and we will continue to work closely with our EU and international partners to secure a deal as early as possible.

### Eastern Europe: Diplomatic Service

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many consular staff his Department employs in each of its embassies in Eastern Europe. [280600]

**Chris Bryant:** The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff carrying out consular activities in our consular region of Central, Eastern Europe and the Balkans is 31.3. About 75 per cent. of these staff are locally hired, the remainder being diplomatic service officers. The list provides the details by post within Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

| *Post name* | *Consular FTE* |
|---|---|
| Tirana | 0.7 |
| Baku | 1.1 |
| Minsk | 0.2 |
| Banja Luka | 0.1 |
| Sarajevo | 0.4 |
| Sofia | 3.6 |
| Zagreb | 2.6 |
| Prague | 2.5 |
| Tbilisi | 0.9 |
| Budapest | 2.2 |
| Pristina | 0.5 |
| Skopje | 0.7 |
| Chisinau | 0.4 |
| Podgorica | 1.2 |
| Warsaw | 3.0 |
| Bucharest | 2.4 |
| Ekaterinburg | 0.2 |
| Moscow | 3.3 |
| St. Petersburg | 1.1 |
| Belgrade | 1.4 |
| Bratislava | 1.1 |
| Kyiv | 1.6 |

### Egypt: Diplomatic Service

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many consulate staff his Department employs in Egypt. [281331]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff carrying out consular activities in Egypt is 10.9. The following list provides the details by post within Egypt:

| *Post name* | *Consular FTE* |
|---|---|
| Alexandria | 0.9 |
| Cairo | 10.0 |

### Iran: Politics and Government

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has made representations to the Iranian government on the right of peaceful assembly and protest since the recent elections held there. [281529]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* On 19 June 2009, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said:

"I believe that it is right for us to speak out for rights, to speak out against repression, to speak out in condemnation of violence, to speak out for a free media that is prevented from doing its job, and we will continue to do it".

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) political director summoned the Iranian deputy ambassador on 19 June 2009. The FCO's Permanent Secretary summoned the Iranian ambassador on Monday 22 June 2009. In both meetings, the UK's commitment to free and fair elections, and the right to demonstration without fear of violent reprisals, was made clear.

### Iraq: Politics and Government

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* the stability of the Iraqi government and *(b)* respect for human rights in Iraq of the assassination of Harith al-Obaidi; what discussions he has had with the Government of Iraq on the assassination of Harith al-Obaidi; and if he will make a statement. [281347]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We condemn the murder of the Iraqi MP Harith al-Obaidi. His death is a genuine loss to the Iraqi Council of Representatives, and to its Human Rights Committee of which he was an active deputy chair. He worked closely with officials at our embassy in Baghdad.

The Iraqi Government and Council of Representatives have continually stood strong in the face of terrorism: the cross-party condemnation of his murder is a strong sign that they will do so again, and will not be diverted from the important legislative challenges that are vital for the country's future.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this matter with the Government of Iraq. However, he has written a personal letter to the Speaker of the Council of Representatives to offer the UK's support and condolences, and officials at our embassy in Baghdad have echoed that message in their meetings with a range of Iraqi parliamentarians.

### Israel: Diplomatic Service

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many consulate staff his Department employs in Israel. [281330]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The consular team at our embassy in Tel Aviv consists of seven staff members; this includes six members who are locally engaged.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed Israel's conditions for the establishment of a Palestinian state with the Palestinians. [281335]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to President Abbas on 18 June 2009.

These discussions focused on the importance of making further progress on the peace process, including President Abbas' reaction to Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech.

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the establishment of a Palestinian state. [281344]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Foreign Minister Lieberman visited the UK on 13 May 2009 and attended the EU-Israel Association Council on 15 June 2009. These discussions focused on the importance of making further progress on the peace process to establish a Palestinian state.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also spoke to his Israeli counterpart on 15 June 2009 to make clear that his endorsement of the principle of a two state solution and his willingness to engage in negotiations without preconditions was a step in the right direction. But also that more was needed on the issue of settlements: a complete freeze in settlement construction, in line with Israel's Roadmap commitments.

### North Korea: Sanctions

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the UN Security Council to adopt new sanctions on North Korea following its recent nuclear test; and if he will make a statement. [279702]

**David Miliband:** UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1874 on North Korea was agreed unanimously on 12 June 2009. The resolution is an important sign of the unity, clarity and intent of the international community.

The resolution is clear in condemning North Korea's nuclear test on 25 May 2009 and demanding that it does not conduct any further nuclear tests or launches using ballistic missile technology. The resolution clamps down on North Korea's proliferation activities. It provides an enhanced inspections regime and bans the export of all arms from North Korea. It includes strong financial measures, including a ban on the provision of international finance to North Korea, except for humanitarian and development work. And it promotes the effective implementation of sanctions by introducing a new monitoring mechanism. The UN Sanctions Committee will also look to identify entities, goods, and individuals for further targeted sanctions within 30 days of the adoption of this new resolution.

The UK wants to see the new measures implemented swiftly and we will be working closely with partners in the UN and EU to do so.

We urge North Korea to return to the negotiating table. This is the only route to peace and prosperity.

### Sri Lanka: Human Rights

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have informed him of their support for the establishment of an international commission of inquiry into alleged human rights abuses in the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka. [280233]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, we fully endorse the EU's calls for an independent inquiry into allegations of violations of international law in the recent conflict in Sri Lanka. It could play an important role in the post-conflict reconciliation process. As such, we welcome the joint statement by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and President Rajapakse of Sri Lanka underlining the importance of an accountability process for addressing possible violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. We will continue to press for progress on this with international partners, above all the EU and UN.

### Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to *(a)* the government of Sri Lanka and *(b)* others on (i) the physical protection and (ii) provision of food, water, clothing and shelter for those held in camps for internally displaced people in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [280309]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** I have been asked to reply.

The Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the high commissioner in Colombo and I have all urged the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that internally displaced persons (IDPs) be treated in accordance with accepted international standards and guidelines. This includes ensuring the physical protection of IDPs, as well as the adequate provision of food, water and sanitation and shelter. Most recently, the Foreign Secretary raised the issue of humanitarian access with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Bogollogama on 5 June. The Prime Minister also raised the humanitarian situation in a telephone call with President Rajapakse on 18 May.

UK representatives regularly discuss the situation in Sri Lanka with the Indian Government, UN and humanitarian agencies. The Foreign Secretary also discussed the civilian crisis in Sri Lanka at the UN on his visit on 11 May.

### Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking in collaboration with *(a)* commonwealth governments and *(b)* the UN to facilitate a political settlement between the government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil community; and if he will make a statement. [280300]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We remain of the view that lasting peace in Sri Lanka can only be achieved through an inclusive political solution based on equality, consent and rule of law, which satisfies the legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lankan communities. We will continue to press for progress on this, both bilaterally, and with international partners and at the UN.

We fully endorse the UN Secretary-General's engagement in relation to Sri Lanka and we welcome his joint statement with President Rajapakse of 23 May 2009, in which they agreed the need to address the aspirations and grievances of all communities and working towards a lasting political solution.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement on Sri Lanka on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 73WS.

### Syrian Arab Republic: Asylum

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding the Government has contributed to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to meet the requirements of Iraqi nationals in Syria for 2009. [279641]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** I have been asked to reply.

The UK Government have contributed £2 million in 2008-09 to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to meet the requirements of Iraqi refugees living outside Iraq in the Middle East region. This funding is not earmarked for specific countries, although official estimates show that the large majority of Iraqi refugees live in Syria.

### Zimbabwe

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of violent farm seizures in Zimbabwe which have occurred since the formation of the unity government; and if he will make a statement. [280622]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Since the Global Political Agreement was signed on 15 September 2008 there have been a number of violent incidents on farms. Farming organisations estimate that there have been 36 cases of assault against farmers and farm workers; five shootings; 62 cases of theft or destruction of crops, property or livestock; seven cases of farmers being barricaded in their property and 32 threats of evictions against farmers. 165 farmers have appeared in court and 35 farmers and workers have been evicted.

We condemn these attacks and urge the Inclusive Government to act on the commitments to reform that it has made, including respect for the rule of law and an end to violence. The judicial authorities in Zimbabwe must take action to end these seizures, which contravene the Southern African Development Community agreement of 15 September 2008.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the treatment of supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change in Zimbabwe since the formation of the unity government; and if he will make a statement. [280625]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We remain in regular contact with the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and human rights groups in Zimbabwe. At present we are monitoring the trials of the MDC supporters who were abducted in late 2008. We are also investigating reports that three other MDC supporters were recently abducted in order to persuade them to testify on behalf of the prosecution.

At the formation of the Inclusive Government in February 2009, approximately seventy political prisoners were in custody. Although all have now been released on bail, they are under extremely strict bail conditions, living in fear of re-arrest and suffering continued harassment by state authorities. We remain deeply concerned about the fate of seven missing MDC activists, abducted in late 2008. The state have always denied knowledge of their whereabouts.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has stated that human rights and the rule of law are among the key areas where progress is needed before there can be full international re-engagement with Zimbabwe. Together with our international partners, we continue to closely monitor the situation on the ground and urge the Inclusive Government to respect the commitments they made in their Global Political Agreement.

## CABINET OFFICE

### 10 Downing Street: Shops

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 942W, on 10 Downing Street, (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the list of retail prices of each item of merchandise available in the Downing Street gift shop; [270186]

(2) what the retail price of each individual item in the Downing Street gift shop is. [271939]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have nothing further to add to the answer given to the right hon. Member on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 942W.

### Abortion: Young People

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the abortion rate among those under the age of *(a)* 18 and *(b)* 16 years was in each region in 2008. [280976]

**Gillian Merron:** I have been asked to reply.

The information is shown in the following table.

*Abortion rates[1] for women age under 16 and under 18 by region of residence, 2008*

*Rate per 1,000 women*

| *Strategic health authority* | *Age under 16[2]* | *Age under 18[3]* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 4 | 19 |
| East Midlands | 4 | 17 |
| East of England | 3 | 14 |
| London | 5 | 25 |
| North East | 5 | 20 |
| North West | 5 | 21 |
| South Central | 3 | 15 |
| South East Coast | 4 | 17 |
| South West | 4 | 17 |
| West Midlands | 5 | 21 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 5 | 20 |

[1] Rates are based on 2007 mid year population estimates.
[2] Rates for under 16 are based on populations 13-15.
[3] Rates for under 18 are based on populations 15-17.

### Adoption: Homosexuality

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Government is taking to tackle discrimination against same-sex couples during adoption processes. [280697]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to adoption for looked after children where this is in their best interests. We are also committed to ending discrimination against prospective adopters who are same sex couples.

The Adoption and Children Act (2002) focused strongly on the needs of children awaiting adoption, and widened the pool of prospective adopters to include same sex and unmarried heterosexual couples. The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 introduced the right for same sex couples to be treated the same as other prospective adopters.

The new Equality Bill maintains this right. It also introduces a new public sector Equality Duty which means that local authorities will have to consider the needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual people when they are planning their policies and services, including adoption services.

All prospective adopters undergo the same thorough and rigorous assessment process irrespective of their sexual orientation, or marital or civil partnership status.

### Childbirth

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what dates the five most recent annual reports on the numbers of *(a)* live births and *(b)* stillbirths in England were published. [281119]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:*

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about the dates on which the five most recent annual reports on the numbers of *(a)* live births and *(b)* stillbirths in England were published. (281119)

The Office for National Statistics is responsible for publishing statistics on the numbers of births registered in England and Wales. The reference volume, Birth Statistics, Series FM1 is published annually and includes the number of live births and stillbirths in England. The five most recent publication dates for Birth Statistics, Series FM1 are shown in the table below.

| *Year of birth* | *Date of publication of Annual Reference Volume: Birth Statistics, Series FM1* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 16 December 2004 |
| 2004 | 15 December 2005 |
| 2005 | 12 December 2006 |
| 2006 | 13 December 2007 |
| 2007 | 15 December 2008 |

Figures for live births and stillbirths in England are usually published several months before the annual reference volume. The latest year for which figures are available is 2008 for live births (provisional data were released on 21 May 2009) and 2007 for stillbirths.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in her Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281032]

**Angela E. Smith:** I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Office autumn performance report 2008 which contains information on the carbon emissions arising as a result of the Department's business air travel. The information is not available per full-time member of staff.

A copy of the performance report is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/psa/autumn_delivery.aspx

and also in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Work Experience

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships her Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281510]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office arranges placements to help young people better understand the workplace, promote itself as an employer of choice, enhance the image of the civil service and increase diversity.

As internships and work placements are arranged by individual management units records of how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid internships are offered to graduates in each of the last six months could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Economic and Monetary Union

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what activities have been undertaken by her Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277176]

**Angela E. Smith:** As the Cabinet Office Minister with responsibility for euro preparedness I would represent the Department at the Treasury-led Euro Ministers' Steering Group. The group has not met since June 2007.

### Electorate

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many registered voters there were in each of the last 10 years. [281367]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question asking how many registered voters there were in each of the last 10 years. (281367)

The table below shows the number of people registered to vote in the UK in local government elections and parliamentary elections for the years 1999 to 2008.

The number of people registered to vote in local government elections is not the same as that for parliamentary elections due to differences in the eligibility to vote.

*Number of local government and parliamentary electors registered to vote in the UK, 1999 to 2008*

| | *Local government electors* | *Parliamentary electors* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 44,692,299 | 44,388,885 |
| 2000 | 44,755,889 | 44,423,440 |
| 2001 | 45,055,786 | 44,695,764 |
| 2002 | 44,742,770 | 44,363,353 |

*Number of local government and parliamentary electors registered to vote in the UK, 1999 to 2008*

| | Local government electors | Parliamentary electors |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 44,539,665 | 44,136,652 |
| 2004 | 44,655,226 | 44,100,864 |
| 2005 | 44,944,109 | 44,403,415 |
| 2006 | 45,457,163 | 44,775,185 |
| 2007 | 45,920,503 | 45,082,854 |
| 2008 | 46,147,877 | 45,194,449 |

*Note:* Individuals eligible to vote in local government elections include peers and European Union (EU) citizens but exclude UK citizens resident abroad. Those eligible to vote in parliamentary elections however include UK citizens resident abroad but exclude peers and EU citizens. *Source:* Office for National Statistics

## Employment

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 479-82W, on employment, how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals and *(e)* non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in (i) the public sector and (ii) the private sector in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available; and what the percentage change between 1997 and the most recent year for which figures are available was in respect of categories (i) and (ii). [281118]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, Official Report, columns 479-82W, on employment, how many (a) UK nationals, (b) UK-born people, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals and (e) non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in (i) the public sector and (ii) the private sector in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available; and what the percentage change between 1997 and the last year for which figures are available was in respect of categories (i) and (ii). (281118)

The information requested is shown in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. The distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. The public sector estimates provided do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates. Those are derived directly from employers and are based on National Accounts definitions, but do not include a nationality breakdown.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is assessed in a footnote to the table.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics Statistical Bulletin, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

*Employment levels for people of working age[1] in employment by public and private sector and by nationality and country of birth, three months ending March 1997 and three months ending March, June, September and December, 2007-09, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand*

| | Public sector[2, 3] | | | | | Private sector[2, 4] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | UK nationals | UK born | Non-UK nationals[6] | Non-UK EU nationals[7] | Non-EU nationals[7] | UK nationals | UK born | Non-UK nationals6 | Non-UK EU nationals[7] | Non-EU nationals[7] |
| 1997 Q1 | 5,696 | 5,473 | 203 | 88 | 115 | 18,657 | 17,929 | 690 | 310 | 381 |
| 2007 Q2 | 6,286 | 5,976 | 375 | 127 | 248 | 19,390 | 18,434 | 1,715 | 841 | 874 |
| 2007 Q3 | 6,214 | 5,900 | 367 | 136 | 231 | 19,688 | 18,681 | 1,731 | 830 | 900 |
| 2007 Q4 | 6,305 | 5,979 | 367 | 148 | 218 | 19,618 | 18,617 | 1,795 | 839 | 936 |
| 2008 Q1 | 6,299 | 5,970 | 384 | 136 | 249 | 19,447 | 18,457 | 1,853 | 925 | 928 |
| 2008 Q2 | 6,349 | 6,025 | 375 | 138 | 236 | 19,404 | 18,388 | 1,872 | 917 | 955 |
| 2008 Q3 | 6,293 | 5,973 | 373 | 134 | 238 | 19,513 | 18,493 | 1,895 | 906 | 988 |
| 2008 Q4 | 6,387 | 6,052 | 390 | 124 | 266 | 19,243 | 18,206 | 1,938 | 923 | 1,015 |
| 2009 Q1[5] | *6,443 | *6,109 | **381 | ***113 | **268 | *18,891 | *17,842 | *1,919 | *979 | *940 |
| Percentage change between 1997 Q1 and 2009 Q1 | 13 | 12 | 88 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 0 | 178 | n/a | n/a |

*Thousand*

| | Employment[2, 3] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | UK nationals | UK born | Non-UK nationals[6] | Non-UK EU nationals[7] | Non-EU nationals[7] |
| 1997 Q1 | 24,331 | 23,389 | 906 | 401 | 505 |
| 2007 Q2 | 25,784 | 24,508 | 2,103 | 969 | 1,134 |
| 2007 Q3 | 26,023 | 24,694 | 2,113 | 969 | 1,144 |
| 2007 Q4 | 26,050 | 24,718 | 2,173 | 1,010 | 1,163 |
| 2008 Q1 | 25,870 | 24,547 | 2,254 | 1,068 | 1,186 |

Thousand

*Employment*[1,2]

| | UK nationals | UK born | Non-UK nationals[3] | Non-UK EU nationals[3] | Non-EU nationals[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 Q2 | 25,882 | 24,532 | 2,286 | 1,065 | 1,201 |
| 2008 Q3 | 25,928 | 24,580 | 2,279 | 1,045 | 1,234 |
| 2008 Q4 | 25,749 | 24,372 | 2,342 | 1,052 | 1,290 |
| 2009 Q1[5] | *25,454 | *24,067 | *2,313 | *1,097 | *1,215 |
| Percentage change between 1997 Q1 and 2009 Q1 | 4 | 3 | 133 | n/a | n/a |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] It should be noted that public and private sector estimates;
—are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work;
—do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used for Public Sector Employment estimates.
[3] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central Government, civil service, local government or council (incl. police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces.
[4] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.
[5] Includes those whose type of employer was not known.
[6] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.
[7] Other EU comprises Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden only in 1997 Q1. Meaningful comparisons between 1997 Q1 and 2009 Q1 are not possible due to the changes in the composition of EU.
[8] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

*Guide to Quality:*
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 3% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*
* 0 = CV<5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

*Note:*
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)

*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

## Government Departments: Standards

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance her Department provides to other Government departments on best practice for departments and their agencies in making grants. [281236]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have been asked to reply.

Managing Public Money is the authoritative guide to ethics in the use of public funds, setting out the main principles for dealing with resources used by public sector organisations in the UK. Guidance on the provision of grants is contained in Managing Public Money Annex 5.1:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/mpm_annex5.1.pdf

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Fines

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fines have been issued in each police authority area for refusing to obey an instruction to stop drinking in a Designated Public Place order area in each of the last five years. [281269]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The number of fines issued for refusing to obey an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place order is in the following table.

PND data are not included in the table. The number of PNDs issued for failure to comply with a requirement by a constable within a designated public place order are as follows: 485 in 2004, 712 in 2005, 1,061 in 2006 and 1,544 in 2007.

Data for 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

*Number of fines issued and average fine amount by police force area (PFA) for drinking in a designated public place[1], 2002-07*

| | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PFA | Fines issued | Average fine (£) | Fines issued | Average fine (£) | Fines issued | Average fine (£) | Fines issued | Average fine (£) | Fines issued | Average fine (£) | Fines issued | Average fine (£) |
| Avon and Somerset | 1 | 60.00 | 2 | 30.00 | 4 | 42.50 | 1 | 10.00 | 3 | 41.67 | 4 | 96.25 |
| Bedfordshire | 2 | 42.50 | 12 | 26.67 | 2 | 40.00 | 9 | 31.67 | 5 | 40.00 | 4 | 57.50 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 50.00 | 1 | 50.00 |
| Cheshire | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 50.00 |
| Cleveland | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 5 | 85.00 | 6 | 66.67 |
| Cumbria | 1 | 30.00 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 50.00 | 0 | n/a |
| Derbyshire | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 100.00 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1 | 30.00 | 4 | 51.25 | 4 | 32.50 | 3 | 23.33 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| Dorset | 1 | 50.00 | 0 | n/a | 1 | 100.00 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |

*Number of fines issued and average fine amount by police force area (PFA) for drinking in a designated public place[1], 2002-07*

| | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *PFA* | *Fines issued* | *Average fine (£)* | *Fines issued* | *Average fine (£)* | *Fines issued* | *Average fine (£)* | *Fines issued* | *Average fine (£)* | *Fines issued* | *Average fine (£)* | *Fines issued* | *Average fine (£)* |
| Dyfed-Powys | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 75.00 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| Essex | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 50.00 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | n/a | 1 | 25.00 | 2 | 20.00 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| Greater Manchester | 1 | 50.00 | 1 | 20.00 | 4 | 45.00 | 3 | 123.33 | 0 | n/a | 1 | 50.00 |
| Gwent | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 4 | 107.50 | 0 | n/a | 6 | 37.50 | 3 | 83.33 |
| Hampshire | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 50.00 | 0 | n/a | 1 | 100.00 | 1 | 80.00 |
| Humberside | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 50.00 |
| Kent | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| Lancashire | 0 | n/a | 3 | 43.33 | 2 | 35.00 | 1 | 100.00 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| Leicestershire | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 2 | 45.00 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| Merseyside | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 4 | 30.00 | 3 | 58.33 |
| Metropolitan Police | 11 | 48.18 | 23 | [2]40.00 | 13 | 40.38 | 12 | 72.92 | 10 | 45.50 | 5 | 49.00 |
| Norfolk | 0 | n/a | 7 | 33.71 | 2 | 22.50 | 2 | 50.00 | 2 | 30.00 | 4 | 58.75 |
| North Wales | 1 | 30.00 | 0 | n/a | 2 | 75.00 | 2 | 75.00 | 1 | 50.00 | 3 | 60.00 |
| Northumbria | 1 | 50.00 | 2 | 105.00 | 3 | 76.67 | 8 | 62.50 | 3 | 50.00 | 9 | 50.00 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 40.00 | 2 | 47.50 |
| South Wales | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 50.00 | 0 | n/a | 1 | 100.00 | 0 | n/a |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 75.00 | 2 | 37.50 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | n/a | 3 | 33.33 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| Suffolk | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 2 | 52.50 |
| Sussex | 1 | 50.00 | 1 | 20.00 | 5 | 55.00 | 6 | 43.33 | 7 | 37.14 | 4 | 37.50 |
| Thames Valley | 0 | n/a | 9 | 40.00 | 18 | 44.17 | 5 | 35.00 | 5 | 54.00 | 3 | 58.33 |
| West Mercia | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 3 | 116.00 |
| West Midlands | 0 | n/a | 3 | 43.33 | 8 | 53.13 | 7 | 65.00 | 2 | 27.50 | 11 | 50.91 |
| West Yorkshire | 0 | n/a | 1 | 20.00 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| Wiltshire | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 1 | 50.00 | 1 | 75.00 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a |
| Total | 21 | 45.95 | 72 | 37.17 | 78 | 49.94 | 63 | 58.57 | 59 | 48.98 | 76 | 60.92 |

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 which came into force on the 1 September 2001, there were no offenders sentenced in 2001.
[2] Excludes one fine amount which exceeds the statutory maximum and may be erroneous.
*Notes:*
1. Where a PFA does not appear in the list there have been no offenders fined in any of the years listed.
2. These data are presented on the principal offence basis.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
4. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

## Antisocial Behaviour

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of measures it has employed to tackle anti-social behaviour in the last five years. [280259]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Home Office commissioned an evaluation of antisocial behaviour orders in 2005 which was published independently by the contractors.

The Home Office has since commissioned two further pieces of work evaluating interventions to tackle antisocial behaviour which will be published in due course.

Three independent reports have confirmed that our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is working. The National Audit Office (NAO) reported that two thirds of people stop committing ASB after one intervention, rising to nine out of 10 after three interventions. Many of these were warning letters and antisocial behaviour contracts which are voluntary measures.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* dispersal orders, *(b)* local child curfew orders, *(c)* juvenile curfew orders, *(d)* directions to leave, *(e)* child safety orders, *(f)* designated public place orders, *(g)* reprimands, *(h)* warnings and *(i)* anti-social behaviour orders have been issued in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [280336]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on these orders and disposals is set out as follows:

*(a) Dispersal orders*

The Home Office have stated that since April 2006, the number of dispersal authorisations by force area has been collected by all forces as part of the Annual Data Requirement (ADR). Data from the ADR exercise for 2006-07 and 2007-08 will be published shortly.

Prior to 2006 the Home Office conducted three data collection exercises from police forces on dispersal powers. A summary of the results of these exercises was published

in the Respect paper "Tools and Powers to Tackle Antisocial Behaviour" in January 2007 and can be found at:

www.respect.gov.uk

*(b) Local child curfew orders*

Information on the number of local child curfew orders is not recorded centrally. It is not thought that any of these curfews have been used and a provision to repeal section 14 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (powers to make local child curfew scheme) has been included in the Police and Crime Bill currently before Parliament.

*(c) Juvenile curfew orders*

The requested information on juvenile curfew orders from the Ministry of Justice is included in Table A (copies of which are in the House Libraries).

*(d) Directions to leave*

The information requested on the number of directions to leave issued by the police and arrests for failing to comply with the direction to leave is not collected centrally.

*(e) Child safety orders*

Information on the numbers of child safety orders issued is not collected centrally.

*(f) Designated public place orders (DPPOs)*

The Home Office has been informed that 712 DPPOs have been implemented throughout England and Wales. Data on DPPOs are held by local authority area and cannot be broken down by police force area. Table C contains data on the total number of DPPOs issued by year. A full list of current DPPOs issued is available at:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/alcoholorders/alcoholorders09.htm

*(g) Reprimands and (h) Warnings*

The Ministry of Justice have stated that the number of offenders aged 10 to 17 issued with either a caution (prior to 1 June 2000) or a reprimand or warning (from 1 June 2000) for all offences in England and Wales, by police force area up to 2007 is set out in Table B (copies of which are placed in the House Libraries).

The figures relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has committed two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

Reprimand and warning data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*(i) Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs)*

These were introduced on 1 April 1999. The latest available published data provided by the Home Office on the number of ASBOs issued at all courts in England and Wales up to 31 December 2006 is in Table D (copies of which are placed in the House Libraries).

**Asylum: Deportation**

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unsuccessful asylum seekers deported from the UK were refused entry on arrival at the country of their origin and subsequently returned to the UK in each of the last four years. [280811]

**Mr. Woolas:** There are a variety of reasons why a person, during the removals process, may be refused entry to their country of destination. Due to this each case will be handled differently. Generally the person will be returned to the UK and re-enter the removals process.

The number of individuals refused entry to their destination country is not centrally recorded. The information requested could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis.

National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

**Entry Clearances: Overseas Students**

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will require universities to report on student progress under the Tier 4 rules on immigration. [280660]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* No. The requirement for universities to monitor attendance rather than student progress provides the UK Border Agency with certainty that a student is following the course of study for which they were admitted rather than engaging in other activities such as employment.

**Genocide: Rwanda**

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Rwandans charged with involvement with the 1994 genocide have been deported to Rwanda from the UK. [281189]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* We have surrendered one indictee to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda using extradition procedures. In addition, we have assisted the Government of Rwanda in connection with extradition requests for four further genocide suspects, although the High Court recently ruled against their extradition.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to identify Rwandans resident in the UK who are known to be connected with the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. [281190]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* The Government policy is to deny safe haven to people who have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity, including genocide. In accordance with this policy the UK Border Agency has in place processes for screening those who are suspected of being involved in war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

### Homicide: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of homicide involving a killing by a sharp instrument there have been in Peterborough constituency since 1997. [281952]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Available information is from the Homicide Index and relates to the number of homicides recorded between 1997-98 and 2007-08.

Homicide data are not broken down below police force area level. Peterborough is covered by Cambridgeshire police so data for this force have been provided.

*Homicides currently recorded[1] where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2], Cambridgeshire police force area and Wales region, 1997-98 to 2007-08*

| Year[3] | Number |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 1 |
| 1998-99 | 1 |
| 1999-2000 | 4 |
| 2000-01 | — |
| 2001-02 | 1 |
| 2002-03 | 2 |
| 2003-04 | 5 |
| 2004-05 | 2 |
| 2005-06 | 2 |
| 2006-07 | 2 |
| 2007-08 | 4 |

[1] As at 4 November 2008, figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Includes knives as well as other sharp instruments.
[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

### Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many caseworkers are employed by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner at each of the Office's locations. [281417]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Home Office, and is responsible for recruiting its own staff. There is currently an overall staff complement of 66 and as of 18 June 2009, the OISC employs 20 full-time and one part-time caseworker plus three casework managers. All are based at the OISC's only office in Tooley Street at London Bridge.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration advisers were registered and exempted by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner between 2001 and 2009. [281418]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Home Office, and receives and deals with applications from advisers. Those individuals or organisations that charge for their advice and services pay a fee to the OISC to be regulated. Those individuals or organisations that provide advice and services without a charge are exempted from paying a fee to the OISC. No figures for 2001 and 2002 are available. Details of the numbers of advisers for years 2003-09 are:

| | Registered advisers | Exempted advisers | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001-02[1] | — | — | — |
| 2002-03[1] | — | — | — |
| 2003-04 | 499 | 2,397 | 2,796 |
| 2004-05 | 1,034 | 2,291 | 3,325 |
| 2005-06 | 1,241 | 2,392 | 3,629 |
| 2006-07 | 1,770 | 2,356 | 3,913 |
| 2007-08 | 1,677 | 2,393 | 4,061 |
| 2008-09 | 1,851 | 2,386 | 4,199 |

[1] Some advisers work for more than one organisation and are counted more than once.

### Passports: Lost Property

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to ensure that the number of passports lost by the UK Border Agency is minimised. [280411]

**Mr. Woolas:** A variety of procedures to minimise the loss of passports and other personal documents, such as the use of secure document banks, are in place across the UK Border Agency. Procedures vary according to the requirements of specific locations and work streams and are kept under review. A compulsory training course, which includes responsibilities regarding the proper handling of passports and other personal documents, was introduced for all UK Border Agency staff in April this year.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanism there is to record the number of passports lost by the UK Border Agency. [280458]

**Mr. Woolas:** Passport losses are handled and recorded individually on casework records. We are piloting a mechanism to report losses centrally. In the future, under the Immigration Casework Programme, electronic case working and its associated processes will considerably reduce the likelihood of documents being lost while in the control of UKBA.

### Serious Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Serious Organised Crime Agency office in each of the last five years. [280316]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Serious Organised Crime Agency became operational on 1 April 2006. For reasons of operational sensitivity, it is not possible to break staff numbers down by location. Nor does the Agency designate staff with the job roles listed. In each of the last three years, approximately 1 per cent. of staff were occupied in grades equivalent to the senior civil service. The remainder of staff were deployed on a range of operational and practical tasks at home and overseas.

### Surveillance: Data Protection

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the retention of *(a)* data and *(b)* other information collected through directed surveillance or covert human intelligence sources where the surveillance activity has revealed no evidence of wrongdoing. [280040]

**Mr. Hanson:** Statutory codes of practice on communications data, covert surveillance and covert human intelligence sources are made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers 2000. These require each public authority to have arrangements in place for the handling, storage and destruction of material. Authorising officers must ensure that all such data are held in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998, which stipulates that there must be a proportionate reason to retain material. The codes of practice for covert surveillance and covert human intelligence sources are currently being revised and were published in draft form as part of the RIPA consultation launched on 17 April.

### Terrorism

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism has taken to develop an appropriate performance framework for counter-terrorism policing; and when he expects the framework to be implemented nationally. [273025]

**Alan Johnson:** We have developed a set of six counter-terrorism policing performance indicators, which were incorporated into the Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) performance framework and, for the first time, implemented nationally in 2008-09. These cover the extent and quality of local police counter-terrorism related intelligence, the disruption of potential threats, an evaluation of police Prevent programmes, and vulnerabilities around hazardous sites and crowded places. The results are not published, but will provide police forces, police authorities and Government with vital counter-terrorism information.

This is complemented by current work led by the Association of Chief Police Officers' Terrorism and Allied Matters business area (ACPO (TAM)) to develop a performance framework specifically for the police Counter Terrorism Network, and also by wider guidance being produced by the Association of Police Authorities for the scrutiny of all protective services.

### Vetting

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many completed Criminal Records Bureau disclosures which did not contain details of any criminal conviction were issued with notes by a chief police officer in each of the last 10 years; [279870]

(2) how many completed Criminal Records Bureau disclosures which did not contain details of any criminal conviction were issued in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [279871]

**Alan Johnson:** The overall number of records checks conducted by the police forces which have resulted in such information being released in each year for which records are available can be found in the following table:

| | *Disclosures issued* | *Disclosures with no LPI info* | *Disclosures with approved info from LPI* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1,437,094 | 1,433,147 | 3,947 |
| 2003-04 | 2,284,688 | 2,278,170 | 6,518 |
| 2004-05 | 2,430,937 | 2,424,122 | 6,815 |
| 2005-06 | 2,770,265 | 2,761,438 | 8,827 |
| 2006-07 | 3,277,957 | 3,270,325 | 7,632 |
| 2007-08 | 3,323,354 | 3,316,028 | 7,306 |
| 2008-09 | 3,853,686 | 3,845,661 | 8,025 |

The CRB is unable to provide information broken down by each police force area because several forces may be involved with producing a single Disclosure. Furthermore, data are not available to distinguish between "approved" or "additional" information. To explain further, comments from chief police officers can be revealed on the face of a Disclosure as "approved information" or in rare cases sent separately to the registered body as "additional information" in the form of a separate letter.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Children: Maintenance

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in cases where a private arrangement for child maintenance payments has been agreed between a non-resident parent and the parent with care, what requirement there is to notify the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC); and what mechanism there is for CMEC to ensure that the non-resident parent is paying an appropriate amount to the parent with care. [278459]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in cases where a private arrangement for child maintenance payments has been agreed between a non-resident parent and the parent with care what requirement there is to notify the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (C-MEC); and what mechanism there is for C-MEC to ensure that the non-resident parent is paying an appropriate amount to the parent with care. [278459]

The Commission's new Child Maintenance Options service is already supporting and guiding parents through the choices they now have in arriving at a child maintenance arrangement best suited to the needs of their family—whether that is a private arrangement or one organised through the statutory service. They do this by ensuring parents understand all the options open to them including the provisions and protections of the statutory

scheme. Should parents decide that a private arrangement best meets the needs of their family then there is no requirement for them to notify the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission that they have come to such an agreement. However either parent continues to be free to make an application to the statutory maintenance scheme if their private arrangement breaks down or is no longer satisfactory.

The primary objective of the Commission is to maximise the number of effective maintenance arrangements for children who live apart from one or both of their parents and it has begun a programme of research, measurement and evaluation to provide robust measures and understand more about the attitudes, behaviours, service needs and expectations of its current and potential future clients.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has made of the number of non-resident parents whose maintenance calculation has been made by the Child Support Agency and whose maintenance is paid directly to the parent with care are non-compliant with that calculation. [279052]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many non-resident parents whose maintenance calculation has been made by the Child Support Agency and whose maintenance is paid directly to the parent with care does the Child Support Agency estimate are non-compliant with that calculation. [279052]

At the end of March 2009 there were around 161,000 cases, where the maintenance calculation has been made by the Child Support Agency and maintenance is paid directly to the parent. These cases are treated as fully compliant.

The number of parents choosing to pay and receive maintenance direct has grown by 30% over the last three years and is now around 13% of the live caseload. Parents with care are free to return to the collections service should they be no longer satisfied with receiving their maintenance direct. The Agency's latest estimate is that less than 1% of these cases return to the collections service each month.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) with reference to figures 16 and 18 in the National Audit Office report, Child Support Agency - Implementation of the Child Support Reforms, HC1174, Session 2005-06, if she will provide the same information for each year since 1993; [279053]

(2) in how many cases the Child Support Agency adjudicated that money was *(a)* owed and *(b)* not owed by the non-resident parent to the parent with care in each year since 1993; [279054]

(3) with reference to paragraph 14 of the National Audit Office report Child Support Agency - Implementation of the Child Support Reforms, HC1174, Session 2005-06, if she will provide the same information for each year since 1993; [279056]

(4) with reference to paragraphs 3.35 to 3.39 of the National Audit Office report Child Support Agency - Implementation of the Child Support Reforms, HC1174, Session 2005-06, if she will provide the same information for each year since 1993. [279057]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to figures 16 and 18 in the National Audit Office report, Child Support Agency - Implementation of the Child Support Reforms published on 30 June 2006, if she will provide the same information for each year since 1993. [279053]; and

How many cases the Child Support Agency has adjudicated that money was *(a)* owed and *(b)* not owed by the non-resident parent to the parent with care in each year since 1993. [279054]; and

With reference to paragraph 14 of the National Audit Office report Child Support Agency - Implementation of the Child Support Reforms published on 30 June 2006, if she will provide the same information for each year since 1993. [279056]; and

With reference to paragraphs 3.35 to 3.39 of the National Audit Office report Child Support Agency - Implementation of the Child Support Reforms published on 30 June 2006, if she will provide the same information for each year since 1993. [279057]; and

With reference to figure 11 in the National Audit Office report Child Support Agency - Implementation of the Child Support Reforms published on 30 June 2006, what the figures were for the three types of case in each month since 1993. [279117]; and

With reference to figure 12 in the National Audit Office report, Child Support Agency - Implementation of the Child Support Reforms published on 30 June 2006, if she will provide the same information in tabulated form for each year since 1993. [279118]; and

How many cases registered with the Child Support Agency were *(a)* found and *(b)* projected to contain maintenance calculation errors in each year since 1993. [279119].

The Child Support Agency routinely publishes the full range of available statistical information in its Quarterly Summary of Statistics, the latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

The information that you have requested in your seven parliamentary questions set out above, which relate, in the main to the 2006 National Audit Office Report is routinely published in this statistical summary. The tables within this statistical summary which relate to your questions are set out below; however information is not always available to 1993 and information relating to the clerical caseload is also not always available in these tables.

It should also be noted that in the three years since the National Audit Office report was published in June 2006, many changes have been made to the way in which the Agency monitors and reports its performance. In particular the focus has changed from monitoring cash and case compliance, which relate only to cases with a collection schedule in place had not been helpful, to refocus on the real purpose of the Agency; collecting money for children. We now report the amount of maintenance collected

In question 279053 you asked for an update of table 16 of the National Audit Office report, which provides information on case compliance, cash compliance, last decision accuracy and arrears collected as a percentage of arrears accrued. The latest case compliance figures from November 2005 only, are available in table 7.1 of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics. The tables relating to both cash compliance and arrears collected as a percentage of arrears accrued have been suspended from the Quarterly Summary of Statistics. Full reasons for this are set out in the notes to tables 11 and 12. Information on last decision accuracy is available in from March 2004 in table 17.

You also asked for an update of table 18 of the National Audit Office report, which provides information on enforcement action taken by the Agency. A full updated time series is available in table 21 of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics.

The information you requested in question 279054 is published in tables 2.2 and 2.3 of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics and gives the number of current scheme cases cleared each month by the Agency since 2003 and how many of these were initially assessed as owing and not owing money. This is information is not available for old scheme cases. Table 6 also gives a breakdown of the number of cases in any given month and the volumes that are assessed as nil liability as well as those positively assessed. This information is available for both schemes from November 1995.

In question 279056 you asked for an update of paragraph 14 of the National Audit Office, which report provides information on uncleared applications, applications received and applications cleared. The opening summary table of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics provides information on the volume of uncleared current scheme applications which includes clerical performance from March 2007 only. Table 2.1 sets out a time series from 2003 of uncleared applications across both statutory maintenance schemes as well as applications and clearances which excludes clerical performance.

In question 279057 you asked for an update of paragraphs 3.35 to 3.39 of the National Audit Office report, which provides information on the number of cases with a positive liability and breaks these down into those that pay maintenance, those yet to pay maintenance as well as further breakdowns detailing maintenance direct cases and assessed not charging cases.

Table 6 of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics gives information on the case status of all cases with a maintenance assessment/ calculation, while table 7,1 gives a breakdown of all cases where the Agency has requested maintenance and in how many cases maintenance was received. Table 7.2 gives information on the number of cases where maintenance was collected or arranged as well as the number of cases with a liability to pay maintenance. The information is available from November 1995.

In question 279117 you asked for an update of figure 11 of the National Audit Office report gives information on the intake of current scheme applications, current scheme clearances and the volume of old scheme uncleared cases. This information is available in table 2.1 of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics from 2003 only.

In question 279118 you asked for an update of figure 12 of the National Audit Office report, which gives the percentage of cases in age bands of current scheme uncleared applications at clearance and age of uncleared current scheme applications. A full time series is available in tables 4 and 5 of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics. As this is current scheme only, data is only available from 2003.

Finally, in question 279119 you asked for information relating to errors in maintenance calculation; table 17 of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics gives information on the accuracy of maintenance decisions and how many were accurate to within a penny. This information is based on a sampling exercise and is available from March 2004.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Implementation of the Child Support Reforms, HC 1174, Session 2005-06, what the figures were for the three types of case in each month since 1993; [279117]

(2) with reference to figure 12 in the National Audit Office report, Child Support Agency—Implementation of the Child Support Reforms, HC 1174, Session 2005-06, if she will provide the same information in tabulated form for each year since 1993; [279118]

(3) how many cases registered with the Child Support Agency were *(a)* found and *(b)* projected to contain maintenance calculation errors in each year since 1993. [279119]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when the classification of child tax credit as income when calculating the child support payments of a non-resident parent was last reviewed; and when it will next be reviewed; [279739]

(2) what assessment has been given to the effect on welfare of non-resident parents in assessing child tax credit as income when calculating their child support payments to the parent with child. [279740]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner. The Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the classification of child tax credit as income when calculating the child support payments of a non-resident parent was last reviewed; and when it will next be reviewed. [279739]; and

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment has been given to the effect on welfare of non-resident parents in assessing child tax credit as income when calculating their child support payments to the parent with child. [279740]

A general review of the statutory child maintenance calculation rules was undertaken prior to the publication of the White Paper "A new system of child maintenance" in December 2006. The White Paper subsequently set out the change to assessing maintenance based on non-resident parent's gross weekly income currently planned for introduction during 2011. As a result tax credits will not be taken into account in assessing maintenance in the future scheme.

No assessment of the effect on the welfare of the non-resident parent by including child tax credit as income when calculating child maintenance has been carried out.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for the Department for Work and Pensions, what estimate she has made of the number of children in the UK for whom maintenance payments *(a)* are and *(b)* are not made via the Child Support Agency. [280025]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission estimates that there are some 2.6 million separated families in Britain in which over 3 million children do not live with both their parents. Surveys indicate that less than half of these families have effective arrangements; of those that do, around half have made them through the Child Support Agency and half privately or through the courts.

These estimates are derived from a combination of CSA administrative data; DWP and Office of National Statistics (ONS) survey data (Families and Children Study, Labour Force Survey); and ONS population projections. The Commission has therefore begun its own programme of research, measurement and evaluation to provide robust measures of the impact of the Commission's services on these families as well as to understand more about the attitudes, behaviours, service needs and expectations of its current and potential future clients.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission considers a reduction in the working hours of a non-resident parent grounds for an adjustment to the calculation of child maintenance payments. [281000]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner. The Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission considers a reduction in the working hours of a non-resident parent grounds for an adjustment to the calculation of child maintenance payments. [281000]

It is not the change in working hours which may have an effect on the maintenance assessment; rather it is any change in income. Parents should tell us if the non-resident parent's regular income changes, or if there are any other changes to the information that we used to work out the amount of child maintenance that must be paid. For non-resident parents this includes information relating to: changes of address, the name and address of the employer, your payroll number and the amount you expect to earn. Similarly, parents with care must inform us if there is a change to the number of children living with them for which child maintenance is due, and the number of nights a child stays regularly with the

Not all change of circumstances will mean we need to change the amount of child maintenance due. In cases assessed under the current scheme we may not change the amount of child maintenance if the non-resident parent's regular net weekly income changes by less than 5%.

For cases assessed under the old scheme, we will, when notified, change the amount of child maintenance that must be paid, if it would change by £10 a week or more, or if we included an amount of 'protected income' last time we worked out how much child maintenance must be paid, and the amount of maintenance the non-resident parent would have to pay would increase by £5 a week or more, or reduce by £1 a week or more.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

## Council Tax

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will change the name of council tax benefit to council tax rebate; and if she will make a statement. [280495]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Improving council tax benefit take-up for pensioners is a key priority for the Department and we are taking active measures, working with local authorities to ensure people understand, and are encouraged to claim their entitlement.

The Government acknowledge that renaming CTB to reflect its true nature as a tax rebate may encourage more people to claim their entitlement. This is something that we believe is worth doing and we will consider carefully the case for making the change when parliamentary time and resources allow.

## Crisis Loans

**Miss Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment her Department has made of the effect on applicants for crisis loans of measures to limit the number of loan awards to any one applicant in a year to three; [270972]

(2) what underlying factors her Department has identified as causing individuals to make more than three applications for a crisis loan in the same year; [270973]

(3) pursuant to the Answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 902W, on crisis loans, what assessment her Department has made of the reasons for the increase in the number of crisis loan awards made to applicants who had previously received four or more awards in the same year between 2006-07 and 2007-08. [270981]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No such assessments have been made.

We are currently testing the feasibility of making such assessments, in the future, in two Jobcentre Plus regions.

## Departmental Cleaning Services

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which organisations provided cleaning services to her Department in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each such contract was in each such year. [280757]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has a PFI contract for the provision of fully serviced accommodation which includes cleaning. Cleaning services provided to the Department through this contract are delivered by MITIE

### Departmental Security

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many breaches of security have been reported at *(a)* the Child Support Agency, *(b)* Jobcentre Plus, *(c)* the Pension, Disability and Carers Service and *(d)* the Rent Service in the last five years; and what procedures each agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data. [276951]

**Jim Knight:** The Department takes its responsibilities to protect personal data extremely seriously, and follows the guidance which has been published by the Information Commissioner and Cabinet Office respectively when handling data-related incidents. Where significant breaches of security involve personal data, the Department will, in appropriate cases, alert individuals and provide them with support and advice, and bring the matter to the attention of the Information Commissioner. Details of significant personal data security breaches are published annually in the Department's resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all important control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement on Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

Small, localised breaches involving personal data are not recorded centrally, and consequently the information requested is not available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* social enterprises and *(c)* other third sector providers have (i) applied and (ii) qualified for money from the Future Jobs Fund; [280623]

(2) how many *(a)* young people and *(b)* people from other disadvantaged groups have received assistance from the Future Jobs Fund. [280624]

**Jim Knight:** The Future Jobs Fund is an important new initiative designed to create 150,000 new jobs; 100,000 of which will be for young people and 50,000 for those living in unemployment hotspots. We are currently inviting bids from a wide range of organisations and partnerships including social enterprises and third sector organisations, to create valuable jobs that bring real benefits to individuals and their communities.

Funding will be allocated through a competitive bidding process that opened on 13 May 2009. The first jobs will be created by October 2009 and we recommend that bids to create jobs by then should be submitted by 30 June 2009. Officials will start the assessment process in early July. Thereafter, bids will be assessed on a rolling basis.

### Jobcentre Plus: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* benefit delivery centres and *(b)* customer-facing jobcentres operated by

**Jim Knight:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Ruth Owen:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Benefit Delivery Centres and customer-facing Jobcentres operated by Jobcentre Plus there were in Essex and Castle Point in each of the last 24 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Mel Groves is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

There is currently one Benefit Delivery Centre in Essex, situated in Basildon. This situation has been unchanged for the last 24 months. There are currently 14 Jobcentres across Essex, of which one, Canvey Jobcentre, is situated in your constituency. Within the last 24 months we have closed two Jobcentres in Essex.

Customers are now using our Jobcentres differently. More of our face-to-face customer contact is on an appointment basis and information on job vacancies is readily available by telephone and the Internet. This enables staff in our offices to focus on those customers in greatest need of support to return to work. As part of this change in the way we work we decided that Stansted Airport Jobcentre should close on 1 July 2007 and Tilbury Jobcentre on 31 March 2008.

Stansted Jobcentre had always focussed on providing our customers with access to vacancies with employers at the airport and we never offered an advisory or benefit service from there. For several years we have provided our advisory and benefit services for customers in Tilbury through Grays Jobcentre. In short, the major purpose of both of these Jobcentres was overtaken by the change in the way we work.

### Maternity Benefits

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research she has undertaken on the reasons for which people do not take up Sure Start maternity grants; and if she will make a statement. [279735]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There has been no research on the reasons people do not take up Sure Start maternity grants.

### Mobility Allowance

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if she will extend eligibility for the mobility allowance to people with a disability who are over the age of 65; [281407]

(2) if she will estimate the annual cost of giving a mobility allowance to every disabled person over pensionable age who would qualify for the allowance if they were under pensionable age; and if she will make a statement; [281408]

(3) what representations her Department has received from individuals or organisations in favour of the mobility allowance being made available to newly-disabled people over the age of 65 in the last two years. [281409]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department received numerous representations from a broad range of individuals and organisations in the last two years on the matter of extending the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance to people who become disabled after the age

estimates could be made of the number of people over the age of 65 who might be entitled to the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance if they were to make a claim.

We have no plans to amend the entitlement conditions. It is normal for pensions and benefits schemes to contain different provisions for people at different stages of their lives. Disability Living Allowance is intended to focus additional help with the extra costs of disability on people who have the very considerable disadvantage of being severely disabled early, or relatively early, in life and who, in consequence, face limited opportunities to work, earn and save compared with non-disabled people.

Attendance Allowance provides help with the disability-related extra costs of people who experience the onset of disability after age 65. Based on the need for personal care, this help is part of the wide range of support that the Government make available to older people so that they can have a decent and secure income in retirement.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 868-69W, on the state retirement pension, if she will revise her estimate of the number of cases of pensioners potentially entitled to lump sum payments of backdated retirement pension through payment of Class 3 National Insurance contributions to take account of pensioners, identified by her Department's special exercise; how much has been paid out in such lump sums to date; to how many people; when she expects to complete this exercise; and if she will make a statement; [269292]

(2) with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1008W, on state retirement pensions: females, if she will estimate the number of women who will be entitled to a *(a)* lump sum pension back payments only, *(b)* lump sum back payments and home responsibilities protection (HRP) and *(c)* HRP only by the end of the special exercise; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse in each case. [269293]

**Angela Eagle:** To date we have paid out £2 million to 2,738 women. As a result of this exercise we estimate around 26,000 women may benefit from paying voluntary contributions, correction of home responsibilities protection or both. For lump sum pension back payment only and home responsibilities protection only we estimate the total costs to the public purse to be between £14 and £16 million in benefit payments. For combined lump sum and home responsibilities protection cases we still do not have sufficient data to be able to reliably extrapolate costs. We expect to complete the exercise by the end of 2009.

### State Retirement Pensions: EU Nationals

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of *(a)* the change in the number of EU citizens who will be entitled to the state pension and *(b)* the likely change in public expenditure as a result of changes to national

**Angela Eagle:** The Pensions Act 2008 changed the rules relating to voluntary national insurance contributions, allowing people who reach state pension age between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2015 who already have at least 20 qualifying years (including Home Responsibilities Protection) to purchase up to an additional six missing years in their national insurance record since 1975.

This policy is expected to have no effect on the number of EU citizens who will be entitled to state pension and overall the policy is estimated to be cost neutral.

### Vacancies: Jobcentre Plus

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs have been advertised at the job centre in Milton Keynes in each of the last 12 months. [281575]

**Jim Knight:** The information is in the following table.

*Number of vacancies in Milton Keynes Jobcentre*

| | *Notified vacancies* | *Live unfilled vacancies* |
|---|---|---|
| June 2008 | 1,314 | 1,452 |
| July 2008 | 1,181 | 955 |
| August 2008 | 1,426 | 948 |
| September 2008 | 1,268 | 1,009 |
| October 2008 | 2,236 | 1,618 |
| November 2008 | 1,597 | 1,653 |
| December 2008 | 906 | 788 |
| January 2009 | 493 | 470 |
| February 2009 | 1,122 | 666 |
| March 2009 | 782 | 704 |
| April 2009 | 795 | 569 |
| May 2009 | 1,373 | 934 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are unrounded.
2. Care should be taken in interpreting time-series data; changes to Jobcentre Plus vacancy handling procedures have led to a major discontinuity in the vacancy statistics pre and post May 2006.
3. These are not whole economy figures. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer and by the local area. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
4. Notified vacancies: monthly data on the inflow of newly notified vacancies to Jobcentre Plus.
5. The stocks of live unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies) and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.
6. These figures are published at:
www.nomisweb.co.uk.
*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Child Minding

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 9, on child care (summer holidays) (1) what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* fall in the number of child minders

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on his Department's records on the number of child care places provided through child minders of recent changes to the methodology used in calculating that number. [281642]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* Ofsted publish statistics on a quarterly basis showing the number of child care providers and the number of child care places recorded in the early years register and the general child care register. The latest set of figures showed a modest overall drop in the number of child care providers (-0.8 per cent.) and child minders (-1.6 per cent.), but a rise in the number of places offered by both group child care providers (13 per cent.) and child minders (11 per cent.).

Recent changes in methodology may have had an impact on these results. Future reports will give a clearer indication of trends.

## Children: Day Care

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria apply to the provision of Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development exemptions to childminders; what appeals procedure applies when applications for exemptions are refused; what definition his Department uses of philosophical reasons for exemption; and what assessment has been made of the use of that definition in practice. [281770]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Any early years provider, including child minders, may apply for exemptions where they are temporarily unable to deliver the full EYFS learning and development requirements; or where the established principles which govern their practice conflict with elements of the EYFS learning and development requirements.

All providers must seek the views of all the parents who have children at the setting and of the local authority and give a clear explanation setting out the rationale for seeking an exemption. Providers should demonstrate that their provision is governed by an established principle if they are applying due to a conflict with the EYFS requirements, evidence may include excerpts from staff handbooks, memorandum and articles of association, or information from the provider's website. All applications are considered on a case by case basis on the information and evidence provided. Further guidance on the exemption process and types of exemptions that can be applied are available on the QCA website:

www.qca.org.uk/eyfs-exemptions

There is no appeals process when an application is refused, however providers may resubmit their applications if there has been a change in circumstance or additional evidence is provided that is likely to affect the decision not to grant an exemption or the terms of the exemption.

We will keep this process under review as further applications come to light. However to date, we have only received one application.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered childcare places for children under eight years old there [illegible]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not available by parliamentary constituency. Data were collected at local authority level only. Table 1 shows the number of child care places in Essex local authority for 1997. Table 2 and table 3 show the same information for 2004 to 2008 and 2009, respectively. Separate tables have been provided due to changes in Ofsted provider categories.

*Table 1: number[1, 2, 3] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type of provider, Essex local authority area, position at 31 March 1997*

| Type of provider | Number |
|---|---|
| Day nurseries | 5,600 |
| Playgroups and pre-schools | 15,000 |
| Child minders | 10,700 |
| Out of school clubs | 900 |
| Holiday schemes | 2,700 |
| Total | 34,900 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data source: children's day care facilities survey.
[3] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding

*Table 2: number[1, 2, 3] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care, Essex local authority area, position at 31 March each year*

| Type of care | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full day care | 10,200 | 11,300 | 11,800 | 12,700 |
| Sessional day care | 10,700 | 10,300 | 10,200 | 9,900 |
| Child minders | 7,300 | 7,900 | 7,900 | 7,100 |
| Out of school day care | 5,700 | 6,200 | 6,000 | 5,600 |
| Crèche day care | 900 | 900 | 900 | 800 |
| Total | 34,900 | 36,600 | 36,800 | 36,100 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted
[3] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding

*Table 3: number[1, 2, 3] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care, Essex local authority area, position at 31 March 2009*

| Type of care | Number |
|---|---|
| Child minders | 8,300 |
| Child care on non-domestic premises | 30,300 |
| Child care on domestic premises | 0 |
| Home child carer | n/a |
| Total | 38,600 |

n/a = not available
[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted
[3] Figures may not add up to total due to rounding

Ofsted have collected information on the number of registered child care places available to children aged eight and under on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, March 2009", which is available on their website:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/

### Children: Protection

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has allocated to local authority child protection services for 2009-10; and what recent steps his Department has taken to protect children from abuse. [280706]

**Mr. Coaker:** Expenditure on children's social care has increased by over 90 per cent. in real terms between 1997-98 and 2008-09, from £2.218 billion in 1997-98 to £5.728 billion, equating to an average real terms increase of 6.1 per cent. per annum. The budgets for 2009-10 have not yet been finalised. It is the responsibility of all partners on children's trusts to assess the adequacy of their funding on children's services.

The Government are also investing £130 million in social work reform over the full spending review period of which £57.8 million is additional new investment announced on 6 May 2009 as part of "The protection of children in England: action plan—The Government's response to Lord Laming". This represents a substantial commitment to support the recruitment, training and development of social workers and will significantly increase the capacity of the system to implement change immediately.

The Government have already implemented significant reforms to safeguard children through Every Child Matters, endorsed by Lord Laming as providing robust legislative, structural and policy foundations which set the right direction and are widely supported. We have also taken action to prevent unsuitable people from working with children by strengthening requirements for CRB checks in education and establishing the Independent Safeguarding Authority, and we are introducing a new, tougher vetting and barring scheme under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. We have introduced statutory Child Death Review processes, a world first, so that local safeguarding children boards and their partners look across all child deaths in the local area, with the aim of reducing preventable child deaths and we have invested £30 million in the expansion and modernisation of the NSPCC's helpline services.

As Lord Laming's recent report acknowledges, a great deal of progress has been made but we are determined to do everything possible to protect vulnerable children. That is why the Government have accepted all of Lord Laming's recommendations and have set out a comprehensive action plan in response. This is available from the website at:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/laming

### Children's Centres

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start centres there are in each local education authority area. [281502]

**Dawn Primarolo:** At the end of April 2009 there were 3,018 Sure Start children's centres across England. By 2010 there will be at least 3,500: one for every community. The information requested on the number of children's centres in each local authority area will be placed in the

### Pre-School Education

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the effects of mandatory early learning requirements on *(a)* diversity of provision and *(b)* parental choice. [281769]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in September last year, Ministers have received representations from a wide range of stakeholders on the EYFS learning and development requirements. The vast majority of these have been extremely positive and welcoming of the EYFS as an important step forward for children. Concerns have been expressed about the early learning goals by some providers and representative groups, but we have yet to see any evidence of an impact on diversity or parental choice.

We have introduced a process whereby providers and parents can apply for exemptions from the EYFS requirements and will also continue to listen to the sector and monitor the EYFS in the lead up to the review of EYFS in 2010.

### Primary Education

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has evaluated for benchmarking purposes on educational attainment at age seven for children in *(a)* England and *(b)* EU member states where children begin formal education after the age of five. [281768]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There are no international comparisons studies of educational attainment at age seven that would enable us to benchmark our performance against other countries.

### Schools: Sport

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department and its predecessors have allocated for the encouragement of physical exercise in schools in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [278860]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The national strategy for PE and sport in schools was introduced in 2003-04. Prior to then, the only funding specifically dedicated for PE and sport from this Department was the additional funding for specialist sports colleges. Other funding for PE and sport was included in the standards fund grants to schools. Dedicated funding for PE and sport from this Department for Mid-Bedfordshire and the East of England has been as follows:

*Mid-Bedfordshire*

£

| | *Sports colleges* | *School sport partnerships* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04[1] | 189,680 | [2]— | 189,680 |
| 2004-05 | 146,538 | 151,194 | 297,732 |
| 2005-06 | 155,904 | 151,194 | 307,098 |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

*Mid-Bedfordshire*

£

| | Sports colleges | School sport partnerships | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 152,736 | 380,387 | 533,123 |
| 2008-09 | 153,381 | 386,917 | 540,298 |
| 2009-10 | 151,833 | 394,177 | 546,010 |

*East of England*

£

| | Sports colleges | School sport partnerships | Sports facilities grant | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98[3] | [1]— | — | — | — |
| 1998-99 | 182,500 | — | — | 182,500 |
| 1999-2000 | 301,500 | — | — | 301,500 |
| 2000-01 | 815,432 | — | — | 815,432 |
| 2001-02 | 1,663,283 | — | — | 1,663,283 |
| 2002-03 | 2,507,293 | — | — | 2,507,293 |
| 2003-04 | £3,467,024 | — | — | £3,467,024 |
| 2004-05 | 4,408,361 | [2]5,408,330 | — | 9,816,691 |
| 2005-06 | 4,943,816 | 8,575,414 | — | 13,519,230 |
| 2006-07 | 5,549,469 | 14,342,900 | — | 19,892,369 |
| 2007-08 | 5,894,816 | 14,888,011 | — | 20,782,827 |
| 2008-09 | 6,083,790 | 16,748,747 | [4]1,452,500 | 24,285,037 |
| 2009-10 | 5,835,975 | 17,063,137 | 2,460,000 | 25,359,112 |

[1] There were no sports colleges in Mid-Bedfordshire prior to 2003-04.
[2] Sport England funded school sport partnerships prior to 2004-05.
[3] There were no sports colleges in East of England prior to 1998-99.
[4] Sports facilities grant was only in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding will be provided to *(a)* the Association for Physical Education and *(b)* other sports professionals for continued professional development under his Department's PE and Sport Strategy for young people in the period 2008-11. [277789]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department has allocated funding of £3.1 million per year over the three financial years from 2008-11 for the PE and Sport professional development programme. This programme is being delivered by a consortium made of the Youth Sport Trust, the Association for Physical Education and Sports Coach UK.

### Young Offenders

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to tackle the causes of youth criminality. [281232]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP), published in July 2008, set out the Government's plans for tackling offending by young people. It detailed our plans for a 'triple track' approach which involves early intervention and prevention, tough enforcement and non-negotiable help and support. It also states our ambition to reduce the rate of young people entering the criminal justice system by one fifth by 2020. This commitment is supported by close to £100 million over three years, in addition to the existing significant investment in children's and youth services, to support local authorities in making inroads into youth crime locally.

This Department has also invested in local projects to behaviour orders (ASBOs) or Acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are given follow-up support from a mentor to address the causes of their behaviour and prevent them entering the criminal justice system. Between September 2008 and April 2009 nearly 8,000 young people and families benefited from these Challenge and Support projects in 52 areas.

As well as reducing antisocial behaviour, the interventions have improved family relationships, school attendance, and young people's involvement in youth activities and reduced homelessness and substance misuse.

In addition, the Youth Justice Board are investing £32 million this year to deliver targeted prevention programmes such as youth inclusion programmes (YIPs), which are tailor-made programmes for eight to 17-year-olds, who are identified as being at high risk of involvement in offending or antisocial behaviour; multi-agency youth inclusion and support panels (YISPs) to prevent antisocial behaviour and offending by eight to 13-year-olds; and various parenting programmes which provide parents with opportunities to improve their skills in dealing with the behaviour that puts their child at risk of offending. All of these programmes build on the significant investment committed to other wider prevention programmes which make a contribution to preventing young people's involvement in criminal activity in deprived areas. Key examples of this are the work done to help young people take part in structured positive activities and to improve facilities in deprived areas through the Positive Activities for Young People and Myplace programmes and additional parenting support such as the Parenting Early Intervention Programme, Family Intervention Projects and expert parenting practitioners.

In the three years to 2011, we will also have invested £6 billion through Sure Start towards securing better services for children young people and their families, with an emphasis on the most disadvantaged communities. This includes co-locating services through Sure Start Children's Centres and extended schools.

## TREASURY

### Banks: Finance

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what fees *(a)* Barclays Capital, *(b)* Goldman Sachs, *(c)* HSBC and *(d)* the Royal Bank of Scotland received from her Department for taking part in the syndicated Government bond sale of 16 June 2009. [281388]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]*: The four Lead Managers (Barclays Capital, Goldman Sachs, HSBC and RBS) of the syndicated offering on 16 June of 4.5 per cent. Treasury gilt 2034 each received £3.08 million in fees. Including fees paid to the Co-Lead Managers, total fees paid were £14.0 million.

### Child Poverty Bill

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the cost of implementing the provisions of the Child Poverty

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

The costs of implementing the Child Poverty Bill are set out in the impact assessment, which was published alongside the Bill on introduction. The impact assessment outlines the increase in public sector administrative costs expected to arise from the Bill, estimated at an annualised average of £7,260,000 in 2008-09 prices. This includes the costs of establishing the Child Poverty Commission and producing a child poverty strategy.

None of these costs are attributed to delivery in Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government have introduced their own legislation, the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2009 which includes a duty to prepare a Welsh child poverty strategy. The associated costs are set out in the impact assessment published alongside the Measure. Provisions within the Measure, including a duty on Welsh Ministers to prepare a child poverty strategy for Wales, will be financed through the Welsh Assembly's budget.

### Departmental Food

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281937]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** For the financial year 2008-09, 60 per cent. of all foods served by the PFI catering sub-contractor for one HGR were sourced from within the UK.

### Departmental Reviews

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275985]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication Public Bodies. Copies of Public Bodies 2008 are available in the Libraries of the House. Detailed information on ad hoc advisory bodies is available on Treasury's website. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the following link, which contains details on Treasury's independent reviews:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews_index.htm

### EU Budget

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had at EU level on the contents of the National Audit Office's 2009 report on financial management in the European Union. [281235]

**Ian Pearson:** HM Treasury have had no discussions on this annual National Audit Office report to Parliament. HM Treasury does, however, see and comment on the [illegible] it is published.

### EU Budget: Contributions

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's officials work on calculating the UK's fortnightly payment to the European Communities budget; and how much the last such payment was. [281432]

**Ian Pearson:** Treasury officials, and officials in HM Revenue and Customs, calculate and check the twice monthly UK contributions to the EC Budget as a part of their overall job remit. The latest UK payment was made on 22 June and was £161,264,379.67.

### Excise Duties: Beer

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he decided to increase duty on beer in Budget 2009. [281266]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Alcohol duties are an important contributor to the public finances. The increase in duty on beer in Budget 2009 means the Government will receive additional revenue to support the public finances.

### Financial Services Authority

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that the two new non-executive directors appointed to the Financial Services Authority Board have extensive professional skills, knowledge and experience from outside the financial services industry. [281755]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Treasury is responsible for appointing members of the FSA board. The recent advertisement for new non-executive directors sets out that candidates are expected to have at least one of the following areas of experience and expertise: a wide understanding of consumer issues within financial services and experience of representing consumer interests at the most senior levels; senior management experience in a major financial services or related institution; a thorough understanding of global economics and its relevance to international financial and business markets; a background within a financial services smaller company, e.g. a mortgage adviser, or an independent financial adviser. The selection panel, which comprises members of the Treasury, the FSA and an independent reviewer will then select the most suitable candidates for recommendation to the Treasury for appointment.

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedure is being followed for recruitment for the two additional non-executive directors of the Financial Services Authority Board announced in March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [281756]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The process by which the appointment of non-executive directors to the board of the Financial Services Authority is as follows: there is an open advertisement and focused search, then a selection panel reviews all applications thoroughly and interviews short-listed candidates. The selection panel will select the most suitable candidates for recommendation to the Treasury for appointment. The selection panel comprises members of the Treasury, the FSA and an independent reviewer.

### Financial Services Consumer Panel

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to announce the appointment of a new Chairman of the Financial Services Consumer Panel; and if he will make a statement. [281757]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I expect that an announcement about the new chairman of the consumer panel will be made shortly.

### Individual Savings Accounts: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of residents of *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point who have individual savings accounts. [281854]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** HM Revenue and Customs does not have data on the proportion of residents of Essex and Castle Point who have individual savings accounts (ISA). However regional ISA statistics are published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/isa/table9_12.htm

### Inheritance Tax: Housing

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many valuations the Valuation Office Agency undertook for inheritance tax in 2008-09. [279800]

**Mr. Timms:** In 2008-09 the Valuation office Agency considered approximately 21,500 valuations submitted for inheritance tax purposes.

### Legal Services Commission: Cost Effectiveness

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Legal Services Commission on best value tendering; and if he will make a statement. [281324]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** There have been none. Responsibility for legal aid issues is a matter for the Secretary of State for Justice.

### National Debt

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the year in which the UK's national debt will return to its 2008 level as proportion of gross domestic product. [281431]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The UK entered the global economic crisis with low public debt, which has given the flexibility to allow debt to rise in the short-term to support the economy. In the current environment of economic uncertainty, the Government's approach is to ensure that debt is on a downwards path in the medium term. The Budget set out plans that are consistent with debt falling as a share of GDP by 2015-16, in line with the temporary fiscal operating rule.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of servicing the UK's national debt was in the latest period for which figures are available. [281433]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Central Government debt interest payments in current prices are published monthly by the Office for National Statistics and can be found in Table 1.1C: Central Government (series NMFX), available on:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/tsdtables1.asp?vlnk=fsf

Figures for May 2009, the latest period, were published in Table PSF3 in the public sector finances statistical bulletin on 18 June 2009.

### Personal Savings

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps he has taken to safeguard the savings of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* those on fixed incomes. [278117]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Since 1997, the Government's savings strategy has focused on developing better incentives for saving, ensuring people have the capability to make the right savings decisions for them, and that they have access to appropriate savings opportunities. To support this strategy, the Government have introduced a range of incentives to save, including ISAs. ISAs are extremely popular and are held by over 18 million people. The tax relief given through ISAs amounted to an estimated £2.4 billion in 2007-08.

The Government are also committed to supporting pensioners through the global economic downturn, providing support for all and more for those who need it most. To provide additional support, Budget 2009 announced a package of measures to support pensioners who receive income from savings. From October 2009 the annual ISA investment limits will rise for people aged 50 and over to £10,200, of which up to £5,100 can be held in cash. In November 2009 the capital disregard in pension credit and pensioner-related housing and council tax benefit will increase, meaning the first £10,000 of capital will not be included when calculating someone's entitlement for these income-related benefits. Budget 2009 also announced a new "tax back" campaign to contact pension credit recipients to encourage them to claim back tax they may have overpaid on their savings income and, where possible, register to receive interest on their savings tax-free in future.

The Government have taken a range of measures to strengthen financial stability and improve protection for savings. These include bringing in a new Banking Act, which provides for new arrangements for the resolution of banks in distress, and for a new insolvency procedure for winding up failed banks which focuses on ensuring the rapid payout of compensation to, or the speedy transfer of the deposits of, retail depositors.

### Private Rented Housing

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations the Treasury has received against changes to the furnished home letting rules. [281921]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Treasury receives representations on a range of issues. As was the case with the previous Administration, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

### Public Expenditure

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses for 2009. [278273]

**Mr. Byrne:** Public expenditure statistical analyses 2009 was published on 18 June 2009.

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been lent to *(a)* UK businesses other than banks and financial institutions and *(b)* UK homeowners in each month since August 2007. [281995]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Bank of England collects and publishes statistics on (both net and gross) lending to businesses and households. The full Bank of England dataset can be found at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/mfsd/iadb/NewIntermed.asp

The codes for net lending are; LPMVTUV and LPMVWNQ.

### Public Private Partnerships

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of public-private partnership liabilities in 2009-10. [281434]

**Mr. Byrne:** Departmental estimates of payments under PFI contracts (signed deals) were published in the supplementary documents of the 2009 Budget, which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_econfinances_968.pdf

### Public Sector: Pensions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on public expenditure of raising the public sector pension age to 68 on a phased basis in line with the increase in the state pension age; and if he will make a statement. [280165]

**Mr. Byrne:** No estimate of the effect on public expenditure of raising the public sector pension age to 68 on a phased basis in line with the increase in the state pension age has been made. Occupational pensions, such as public sector pensions, involve different structures and rights to state pensions, which make it far more administratively complex and costly to apply phasing in such a way.

### Taxation: Foundry Sand

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to change the level of taxation on waste foundry sand; and if he will make a statement. [281786]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The disposal of used foundry sand to landfill is currently able to benefit from the lower rate of landfill tax. Used foundry sand, and other wastes, were established as "lower rated" in 1996 on the basis of the then understanding that they were not "active" and their landfilling results in a relatively lower level of environmental impact.

At Budget 2009, the Government published a consultation document, "Modernising Landfill Tax Legislation" which proposes, inter alia, that, in order to strengthen the environmental integrity of the tax, the benefit of the lower rate should be restricted to those wastes which are "inert" according to the tests provided for at a European level which post-date the establishment of lower rated wastes. The consultation document also seeks views on whether environmental criteria other than "inertness" should be taken into account when deciding whether a waste might be lower rated. It identified used foundry sand as a waste that would cease to be lower rated if inertness were the only criterion. Comments on the proposals are welcomed by the consultation deadline of 24 July 2009.

### VAT: Channel Islands

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue that would accrue to the Exchequer from applying the value added tax regime in force on the mainland to goods brought in from the Channel Islands. [281273]

**Mr. Timms:** Travellers to the UK from the Channel Islands are entitled to bring in up to £340 of goods VAT-free. No estimate has been made of the resultant cost of the VAT foregone.

Goods supplied to UK consumers from the Channel Islands benefit from low value consignment relief and are not subject to UK VAT if they are valued at under £18. The latest estimate of the cost of this relief in respect of supplies from the Channel Islands of around £80 million for 2007-08 was set out in the answer I gave on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2148W.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Housing: Finance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 383W, on council housing, how much was spent under each budgetary heading on each *(a)* stakeholder workshop and *(b)* regional event; and how many people attended each event. [281494]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** There have been three workshops for each of the four work streams within the review. Attendances were:

| | *1st workshop* | *2nd workshop* | *3rd workshop* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Costs and standards | 23 | 19 | 23 |
| Rents and service charges | 27 | 25 | 18 |
| Funding mechanisms | 26 | 20 | 23 |
| HRA rules | 27 | 27 | 20 |

10 of the workshops were held in my Department's headquarters and the cost of catering was on average £207.22 per event.

One of the workshops was hosted and paid for by a stakeholder organisation.

The remaining workshop was held in a hired venue and the cost was £1,226.00 including catering.

There were three regional events, two in Bristol and Birmingham, held in Government offices for the regions, and one in London, held in departmental headquarters. Attendance in Bristol and Birmingham was 31 and 28 respectively. Attendance in London is not recorded but the event was a similar size to the others. There is no separate record of catering costs, but arrangements were on a similar scale to the workshops.

There were two seminars for regional and national tenant organisations, both held at departmental headquarters. Attendance was 28 and 19 respectively. The cost of catering for the regional event was £275.20. Catering costs for the national event are not held separately but the figure would have been slightly less than for the regional event. Tenants' travel expenses to London were reimbursed. A precise figure for expenses for this purpose is not available, but the total is approximately £3,600.

### Council Housing: Property Transfer

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for section 27 consent were *(a)* made by local authorities and *(b)* granted in each year since 1997. [281416]

**Mr. Ian Austin** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]*: Since 1997, 66 local authorities have submitted an application for section 27 consent to delegate their housing management services to an Arms Length Management Organisation, and 41 to a private company under a private finance initiative. In each case, the application was approved by the Secretary of State. We also receive applications relating to other bodies, but no more than five or six a year.

It is Government policy to work closely with local authorities to ensure that any applications will be acceptable to the Secretary of State.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether consent for transfer of housing stock from a local authority to a housing association has been withheld on one or more occasions following a ballot of tenants. [281750]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** A local authority would only apply for consent to transfer stock to a registered social landlord after a positive vote in a ballot of tenants. The Secretary of State has not withheld consent for such a transfer to proceed.

### Council Housing: Rents

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(c)* the Tenant Services Authority and *(d)* the Audit Commission collects on rent arrears in local authority housing. [280034]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** CLG collect information on rent arrears in local authority housing via the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) second advance subsidy claim form. This includes information on current tenants' cumulative arrears of rent, former tenants' cumulative arrears of rent and total cumulative arrears as a percentage of rent roll.

The Audit Commission, the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Service Authority do not collect information on local authority rent arrears.

### Council Housing: Waiting Lists

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were on local authority housing waiting lists in Castle Point *(a)* on the latest date for which figures are available, *(b)* in each of the last five years and (c) in 1997. [282067]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 17W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne).

### Council Tax

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish a summary of representations received by his Department on council tax in the last three years. [280881]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Communities and Local Government only publishes summaries of representations which are received in response to public consultations.

There have been two public consultations regarding council tax in the past three years and a summary of responses, for each consultation, is published on the Communities and Local Government website. The following consultations have taken place:

Inclusion of Efficiency Information with Council Tax Demand Notices: Consultation (3 September 2008)—summary of responses available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/counciltaxefficiencyresponse

Amendments to council tax and non-domestic rates secondary legislation (8 August 2006)—summary of responses available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20081205143343/

http://communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/amendmentscouncil2

### Eco-Towns

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the PricewaterhouseCoopers stage 2 financial viability study of the eco-towns programme will be made publicly available before the eco-towns planning policy statement and its associated list of approved eco-town sites is approved. [281925]

**John Healey:** The Financial Viability Study of the Eco-towns Programme was published on our website on 5 March 2009 as part of the eco-towns consultation.

### Empty Property

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of empty dwellings in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [280705]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Details of the total number of empty dwellings reported by local authorities in October 2008 are shown in the following table. Data are not available at constituency level.

Data for other parts of the UK are a matter for the devolved Administrations.

| | *Total number of empty dwellings* |
|---|---|
| Middlesbrough | 2,716 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 2,196 |
| Teesside[1] | 10,123 |
| North East | 50,623 |
| England | 784,022 |

[1] Teesside consists of the unitary authorities of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on Tees.

### Housing: Construction

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum grant available under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme will be. [280853]

**John Healey:** Minimum and maximum grant levels have not been set for the Kickstart programme.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many expressions of interest were received by the Homes and Communities Agency in relation to the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme before 8 June 2009; and how many were from *(a)* arm's-length management organisations, *(b)* registered social landlords and *(c)* private sector developers; [280990]

(2) how many applications for funding support via the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme have been received in each region; [281209]

(3) how many bidders for funding under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme have applied for *(a)* equity and *(b)* loan investment support; [281210]

(4) how many and what proportion of bidders for funding from the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme have applied for support via *(a)* Affordable Housing Grant, *(b)* Investment Support and *(c)* Homebuy Direct; and if he will make a statement; [281213]

(5) how much has been applied for by bidders under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme has been to date. [281253]

**John Healey:** The HCA are assessing the bids received; we will publish such data shortly.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what he expects the average amount of grant per unit for the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme to be. [281203]

**John Healey:** The amount of grant allocated under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme will depend upon the mix of bids received. Funding will be allocated under a competitive basis based on value for money.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) by what mechanism the book value of land in relation to applications made by housing developers via the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme will be defined; [281204]

(2) what mechanism is in place to ensure that bank loan finance for housing development schemes has been maximised before financial support is granted via the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme. [281205]

**John Healey:** At the expression of interest stage, applicants have been asked to provide the most recent book value from information already available. For all projects that are short-listed for funding, the book value will need to be justified, and will be tested through a technical due diligence review.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanism exists to ensure that new homes built by developers with funding from the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme meet Homes and Communities Agency standards. [281206]

**John Healey:** Homes in receipt of funding under the Kickstart Housing Delivery Programme for Social Rent, Intermediate or HomeBuy Direct must meet the existing HCA standards for these programmes. Bids that do not meet these standards will be judged as ineligible under the Kickstart eligibility criteria.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether provision exists for developers to pay interest on loans from the Homes and Communities Agency in relation to the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme. [281212]

**John Healey:** The HCA will charge interest on loans in relation to the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme, in compliance with existing state aid clearances.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role regional development agencies will play in the distribution of funding via the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme. [281214]

**John Healey:** RDAs will play no formal role in the distribution of funding via the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme. However, part of the assessment of bids includes an assessment of the schemes' contribution to spatial or other regional programmes and priorities.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the likely total cost of the due diligence

process for the Homes and Communities Agency in respect of the operation of the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme. [281251]

**John Healey:** The estimated cost for the due diligence process for the HCA in respect of the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme is £2,550,000.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the definition of a housing-led scheme is in respect of applications for funding made under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme. [281252]

**John Healey:** In respect of applications for funding made under the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme, a housing-led scheme is defined as a scheme with at least 75 per cent. of net internal area as housing. Community floorspace required under a S106 agreement can be excluded from this calculation.

### Housing: Energy

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* assistance and *(b)* incentives there are to (i) build and (ii) upgrade homes to energy-efficient standards. [281974]

**John Healey:** Government are supporting the transition to low and zero carbon new build homes by providing funding for the Zero Carbon Hub, a not for profit company formed to guide, monitor and co-ordinate the zero carbon homes programme. In 2008-09, the Department provided approximately £250,000 grant funding towards the hub to help with set-up costs.

Stamp duty relief for zero carbon homes was announced in Budget 2007 to act as an incentive to developers of new zero carbon homes. The exemption covers the first acquisition of a zero carbon home costing up to £500,000. For homes costing in excess of £500,000 there will be a reduction of £15,000. The exemption is in place for a period of five years ending on 30 September 2012.

Government currently assist householders looking to retrofit their homes by providing: information on current energy performance through energy performance certificates; advice on what can be done and how to do it through funding of the Energy Saving Trust; and help with financing new measures through initiatives such as Decent Homes, the Landlords Energy Saving Allowance, and the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target supplier obligation scheme.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change will be establishing feed-in tariffs in 2010 and the Renewable Heat Incentive in 2011, to incentivise uptake of low carbon and renewable heat and energy production. The roll-out of smart meters to homes will increase awareness of the energy people use and potentially the money they waste, further incentivising energy saving.

Government are currently assessing responses to the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation, which set out the Government's long-term plans for assisting and incentivising householders and landlords to improve the energy efficiency of their properties. A summary of responses will be published alongside the Government's response later this year.

### Local Government: Complaints

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will issue guidance to local authorities on the separate recording of numbers of complaints received from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* councillors of (i) the same authority and (ii) another authority; [280895]

(2) what guidance his Department gives to local authorities on recording the number of complaints about their services received *(a)* by mail, *(b)* by email, *(c)* by telephone, *(d)* in person and *(e)* by other means. [280993]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Guidance to local authorities on running a complaints system is issued by the local government ombudsman, who issued updated guidance in April 2009, which makes clear the importance of effective recording of complaints.

### Local Government: Contracts

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have tendered contracts through reverse e-auctions in each of the last five years. [281997]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Records are only kept centrally of local authority e-auctions that relate to Buying Solutions e-auctions, an Executive Agency of the Office of Government Commerce in the Treasury. The figures from Buying Solutions are as follows:

*Number of local authorities who have tendered contracts through e-auctions*[1]

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 9 |
| 2005-06 | 20 |
| 2006-07 | 16 |
| 2007-08 | 14 |
| 2008-09 | 15 |

[1] Each local authority has been counted once only in each year.

### Local Government: Public Participation

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent research his Department has commissioned on public involvement in its policy formulation at a local and regional level; and what steps his Department is taking to increase public involvement in its policy formulation. [280741]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our research database (RD) at

http://www.rsd.communities.gov.uk/

The database provides information on projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and predecessor Departments going back to 30 November 2001. This includes the subject and cost of each research contract.

The Department involves the public in policy development in those public policy areas where we lead. This includes a range of methods including public

consultation, market research, polling, and focus groups. More generally, it has been this Department's policy to increase public engagement and involvement with decision making at each level of Government. The first major government policy statement on empowering people ("Communities in control: real people, real power" White Paper, published in July 2008) has been a very significant step in transferring power to citizens and communities. The recently published Communities progress report provides a summary of the progress made in delivering the various White Paper commitments and the actions that are still to be implemented. This document can be found at

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communitiesprogressreport

### Mayors

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the merits of direct elections of local authority mayors. [281414]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** On 5 October 2007, the Department published the final report of the five year Evaluating Local Governance (ELG) research, which looked at the impact of the changes introduced in the Local Government Act 2000—including the directly elected mayoral model of governance.

### Mortgages: Government Assistance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been refused assistance through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in each month since its inception. [280675]

**John Healey:** The Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across England since January 2009. As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme, headline data for January-April 2009, provided by local authorities operating the scheme and broken down by Government office region, are available on the Department's website. The figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

At Budget 2009 it was announced that the Mortgage Rescue Scheme would be expanded to include some households previously excluded due to negative equity. We have also reviewed and raised the regional property price caps. These changes came into effect from 1 May.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people who qualify for homeowner mortgage support but do not receive such assistance. [280676]

**John Healey:** The aim of Homeowners Mortgage Support is to prevent repossessions, where households suffer a temporary income shock. After taking money advice, homeowners apply to their lenders to join the scheme, which allows them to defer up to 70 per cent. of the interest due. The Government have published an impact assessment, which estimates the number of borrowers that could be eligible. Official figures on the number of households entering the scheme will be published later this year.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have *(a)* applied for, *(b)* been granted and *(c)* been refused assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in (i) England and (ii) Peterborough constituency in each month since its inception. [281912]

**John Healey:** The Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across England since January 2009. As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme, headline data for January-April 2009, provided by local authorities operating the scheme and broken down by Government office region, are available on the Department's website. The figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

At Budget 2009 it was announced that the Mortgage Rescue Scheme would be expanded to include some households previously excluded due to negative equity. We have also reviewed and raised the regional property price caps. These changes came into effect from 1 May.

According to our records, Peterborough city council has not submitted monitoring statistics since the inception of the scheme in January 2009, so we are unable to provide the information requested about Peterborough at this time.

### Non-Domestic Rates

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the basis was for the information contained in the August 2004 National Non-Domestic Rates Transitional Arrangements Consultation, on the proportion of properties with capped increases in business rates bills under transitional relief schemes of one to five years in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10 and the revenue implications of each scheme. [281761]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information used for the August 2004 National Non-Domestic Rates Transitional Arrangements Consultation was an analysis of the comparison between the 2000 Rating List and the unpublished 2005 Ratings List.

### Non-domestic Rates: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many businesses in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London receive small business rate relief; [280650]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London which qualify for but do not claim small business rate relief. [280651]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The number of businesses receiving small business rate relief as at 31 December 2006, the latest date for which data are available, in the London borough of Bexley was 1,350. At the same date, the number of businesses in Greater London receiving small business rate relief was 43,100.

We have not made an estimate of the number of businesses in the London borough of Bexley or Greater London which qualify for small business rate relief but do not claim it.

### Planning Obligations

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to instruct local authorities to make public *(a)* monies received through planning obligations and *(b)* the distribution of such funding. [281972]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Government already recommends, through policy on the use of planning obligations set out in "Circular 05/2005: Planning Obligations" and in related guidance "Planning Obligations: Practice Guidance", that local planning authorities should keep accurate records of developer contributions which can be used to provide information to the public. Both publications are available on the Department's website.

### Private Rented Housing

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to adopt a national registration scheme for private rented accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [281588]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department is currently consulting on proposals for a national register of private landlords following the Rugg Review of the private rented sector.

A copy of the consultation document can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/responseruggreview

Responses are invited by 7 August 2009.

### Regional Government: Manpower

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff there were in each *(a)* policy and *(b)* locality division in each regional Government office in each year from 2001-02 to 2008-09; and how much was paid in bonuses to staff in each such division in each of those years. [281758]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We cannot provide the requested breakdown of Government Office staff numbers or paid staff bonuses as this information has not been collected at divisional level.

We can provide a breakdown of the total number of staff in each regional Government Office per financial year from 2001-02 to 2008-09.

*(a) Staff numbers*

| GO (April) | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East | 189 | 202 | 250 | 292 | 284 | 272 | 221 | 200 |
| East Midlands | 231 | 251 | 288 | 312 | 299 | 271 | 219 | 204 |
| London | 312 | 303 | 350 | 377 | 340 | 289 | 244 | 243 |
| North East | 263 | 291 | 308 | 344 | 336 | 310 | 260 | 242 |
| North West | 389 | 333 | 376 | 388 | 373 | 365 | 288 | 258 |
| South East | 269 | 305 | 303 | 346 | 342 | 303 | 276 | 252 |
| South West | 269 | 296 | 311 | 369 | 354 | 317 | 269 | 238 |
| West Midlands | 304 | 292 | 339 | 344 | 333 | 288 | 254 | 240 |
| Yorks and Humber | 266 | 276 | 290 | 324 | 309 | 289 | 239 | 218 |

The following table details the amount paid in staff bonuses in the regional Government Offices for the financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09. Staff bonus information for the financial years 2001-02 to 2003-04 is not available as it pre-dates our current accounting system.

*(b) Staff bonuses paid*

£

| GO | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East | 67,548 | 68,863 | 129,458 | 138,504 | 123,738 |
| East Midlands | 64,891 | 82,182 | 129,472 | 142,354 | 104,990 |
| London | 119,971 | 133,102 | 179,890 | 236,604 | 176,498 |
| North East | 76,938 | 83,887 | 114,998 | 167,244 | 125,138 |
| North West | 96,600 | 142,036 | 175,544 | 276,331 | 172,830 |
| South East | 96,521 | 154,367 | 139,396 | 191,291 | 152,973 |
| South West | 84,816 | 44,737 | 146,415 | 181,338 | 146,185 |
| West Midlands | 110,053 | 122,006 | 134,693 | 204,615 | 160,573 |
| Yorks and Humber | 90,228 | 104,977 | 142,979 | 178,320 | 140,729 |

### Right To Buy Scheme

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much right to buy receipts were in each year since 1997; and how much of them was retained by local authorities in each year; [277969]

(2) how much accrued to the Exchequer from Right to Buy receipts in each year between 1997-98 and 2004-05. [277968]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The following table shows the level of receipts received by local authorities arising from right to buy (RTB) sales.

| Financial year | RTB receipts (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 890 |
| 1998-99 | 911 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,374 |
| 2000-01 | 1,426 |
| 2001-02 | 1,566 |

| Financial year | RTB receipts (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 2,210 |
| 2003-04 | 2,936 |
| 2004-05 | 2,575 |
| 2005-06 | 1,544 |
| 2006-07 | 1,145 |
| 2007-08 | 934 |
| 2008-09 | [1] |

[1] Final figures not yet available.

Local authorities retain 25 per cent. of the proceeds from RTB sales, but the Department does not hold records of these amounts. The data provided to the Department by local authorities may include figures for other relevant consents and so it is not possible to provide an accurate split between the proportion of receipts retained by the authority and that collected by the Department.

However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1118W. This states the total amount of local authority housing receipts which have been transferred to the Exchequer since 01 April 2004.

### Shared Ownership Schemes

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent representations he has received from housing associations on provision of credit to those seeking to purchase property under shared ownership schemes from lenders *(a)* wholly in the private sector and *(b)* wholly or partly publicly-owned; [281696]

(2) what information his Department holds on the level of cash deposits requested by lenders granting mortgages for those participating in shared ownership schemes. [281707]

**John Healey:** Representations have been received by the Department from the National Housing Federation concerning the availability of mortgages and deposit requirements for shared ownership homes.

The level of deposit required is a commercial decision for lenders which they base on their assessment of risk in prevailing market conditions and the circumstances of the purchaser. Of the 18 lenders currently willing to offer mortgages to shared owners, the maximum loan to value available on the share being purchased by the shared owner ranges from 75 per cent. to 100 per cent.

### Social Rented Housing: Construction

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average grant per unit from the £100 million fund for local authorities to build social homes in 2009-10. [281207]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Our estimation, at this very early stage of the programme, is approximately £55,000 grant per home, with the expectation that the local authority might borrow a further £55,000 per home to complete a development.

### Social Rented Housing: Copeland

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) by what date he expects all Copeland properties leased by social landlords to be at the decent homes standard; [281339]

(2) how many homes leased by social landlords in Copeland are below the decent homes standard. [281340]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In June 2004 Copeland borough council transferred 3,780 homes to Copeland Homes which was part of the Home Group, a registered social landlord. It was agreed that these properties would be brought up to the decent homes standard by December 2010 apart from 538 properties for which Home was granted a waiver until December 2013. Copeland Homes is now fully merged into the group and does not report to the Tenants Services Authority separately on achievement of the Decent Homes Standard for the ex Copeland district council housing stock.

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department plans to take to meet the demand for social rented housing in Copeland. [281343]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Copeland has been allocated over £1.2 million from the Homes and Communities Agency's 2008-11 Affordable Housing Programme to build 31 additional affordable homes, of which 23 will be for rent.

### Social Rented Housing: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department plans to take to meet demand for social rented housing in Tamworth constituency. [281693]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department does not itself directly take steps to match demand for social rented housing in local authorities. We encourage authorities to assess the housing needs of their area as part of their strategic housing role and then work in partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and local registered social landlords (RSLs) to deliver the required number of homes through our National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP). This has already delivered £1.296 million of funding in 2008-09 for two schemes in Tamworth for rent and low cost home ownership.

Nationally, The HCA has an additional £635 million from the April 2009 Budget to stimulate the housing market, including Kickstart Housing Delivery and funding for local authorities to deliver new council housing. The funding, announced in the 2009 budget, will allow councils to bid to deliver up to 900 new homes, building on their own land. Homes will be for social rent, built to high environmental standards. The first bidding round for this is currently under way and successful bidders will be announced in September. Tamworth could submit a bid for their funding if they so wished.

### Temporary Accommodation: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were in temporary accommodation in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years; and what the average time spent in such accommodation was. [280453]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes so.

The number of households housed in temporary accommodation by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter, is also recorded. This figure consists of those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority; and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

Summary tables including the total number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by each local authority as at the end of each year between 1997-98 and 2008-09 (TA by LA), have been deposited in the Library.

The county of Essex includes the following local authorities: Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maiden, Rochford, Tendring, Uttlesford; and the unitary authorities, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.

We do not collect centrally the average time spent in temporary accommodation for these households.

### Temporary Accommodation: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were in temporary accommodation in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in each of the last five years; and what the average time spent in such accommodation was. [280685]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) today, *Official Report*, (PQ 280453).

### Temporary Accommodation: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were in temporary accommodation in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years; and how long on average households spent in such accommodation. [281683]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) today, *Official Report*, (PQ 280453).

## HEALTH

### Maternity Services

13. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the adequacy of the level of provision of maternity services in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* England. [281547]

**Ann Keen:** In 2008, the Healthcare Commission published 'Towards better births, a review of maternity services in England' which assessed the quality, capability and efficiency of maternity services in England.

Peterborough primary care trust commissions most of its maternity services from Peterborough and Stamford hospitals national health service foundation trust. The caesarean section rate is one of the lowest in the country.

18. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of maternity services in *(a)* Kettering constituency and *(b)* England. [281552]

**Ann Keen:** In 2008, the Healthcare Commission published 'Towards better births, a review of maternity services in England' which assessed the quality, capability and efficiency of maternity services in England.

Kettering General Hospital NHS foundation trust is currently considering the feasibility of designating part of its existing midwifery unit as a midwife led unit, to increase the range of choices offered to women.

### Social Care Green Paper

14. **Christopher Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the forthcoming social care Green Paper. [281548]

**Phil Hope:** The Care and Support Green Paper is to be published in early July, presenting an exciting opportunity for a comprehensive debate in England about developing a care and support system fit for the 21st century that rises to the challenge of people living longer, increased demand for services and higher expectations for the quality of care.

### Berkeley Hospital

15. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made on the relocation of Berkeley hospital; and what plans he has for the future use of the existing site. [281549]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** It is for the local national health service to determine how best to provide services that suit the needs of the local population, in consultation with clinicians and the general public.

### NHS Targets

16. **Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of targets in raising standards of care in the NHS. [281550]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Supported by this Government's historic levels of sustained investment, the national health service has delivered significant improvements in patient care and experience. A small number of national targets, focused on the things that matter most to patients, have helped achieve this—providing cleaner hospitals; shorter waits for treatment; and shorter waits in accident and emergency.

### Greater Manchester Ambulance Service

17. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to improve the response time of the Greater Manchester ambulance service. [281551]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to support ambulance trusts to ensure national response time standards are delivered and sustained locally.

The Department, via its performance delivery team, discusses performance with strategic health authorities to ensure that they work with local organisations to address performance issues.

### Hospital-acquired Infections

19. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what further steps he plans to take to reduce the level of hospital-acquired infections. [281553]

**Ann Keen:** We are determined to build on the progress that has been made in reducing Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAIs) over the last few years.

As well as ongoing implementation of the current programme to reduce HCAIs, we will be introducing appropriate new mechanisms such as the Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Objective to drive the number of infections down further.

### First Aid Training

20. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to promote first aid training for members of the public. [281554]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department has no plans to promote first aid training for members of the public.

### Thalidomide

21. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals for a new compensation scheme for thalidomide victims in cases where the drug was prescribed on the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [281555]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Thalidomide victims are already compensated through a private settlement, agreed between the Thalidomide Trust and Diageo plc.

It is the Department's long-standing policy not to make ex-gratia payments to patients whose health has been adversely affected by the use of pharmaceutical products. Responsibility rests with the pharmaceutical company concerned.

### Physical Activity: Young People

22. **Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to promote physical activity to maintain health among young people; and if he will make a statement. [281556]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department's £75 million Change4Life campaign will help every family in England do more physical activity. We are also contributing to a series of cross-government initiatives to promote physical activity in children and young people, including "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives", Healthy Schools, the Travelling to School Initiative, Healthy Further Education and Free Swimming.

### Working Time Directive

23. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the effects of the European working time directive on junior doctors; and if he will make a statement. [281557]

**Ann Keen:** The Secretary of State has had representations from Clinicians, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, individual Royal Colleges and the British Medical Association about the directive. We are working in partnership with these organisations to support the national health service implement the directive.

### Nurses' Pay

24. **Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of pay for nursing staff in the NHS. [281558]

**Ann Keen:** The pay of nursing staff in the national health service is covered by the independent NHS Pay Review Body. The review body takes evidence from the Government, trade unions and NHS Employers before making their recommendations about pay awards. Last year, the NHS Pay Review Body's recommendation of a 2.75 per cent. pay award for 2008-09 was accepted in full by the Government as part of a three-year pay deal which included headline awards of 2.4 per cent. for 2009-10 and 2.25 per cent. for 2010-11. In December 2008, the NHS Pay Review Body decided not to seek a remit to review this year's 2.4 per cent. headline pay uplift for nursing staff and others on the same NHS pay system.

### Dementia Care

25. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of dementia care services in *(a)* East Devon constituency and *(b)* England. [281559]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has made no specific assessment of the performance of dementia care services in East Devon constituency.

However, the National Dementia Strategy for England was published on 3 February to improve services for people with dementia and their carers. The strategy is backed by £150 million funding and will focus on three key areas in relation to dementia services: improved awareness, earlier diagnosis and intervention, and a higher quality of care.

## Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in *(a)* the Essex Strategic Health Authority area and *(b)* England who had had (i) one, (ii), two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six, (vii) seven, (viii) eight, (ix) nine and (x) 10 or more previous abortions had an abortion in 2008. [280977]

**Gillian Merron:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

*Number of previous abortions for Essex primary care trusts (PCTs)[1] and for England, residents, 2008*

| | Number of previous abortions | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *0* | *1* | *2* | *3* | *4 or more* | *Total* |
| Essex PCTs[1] | 3,565 | 1,418 | 340 | 83 | 32 | 5,438 |

[1] Totals shown relate to PCTs for Mid Essex, North East Essex, South East Essex, South West Essex and West Essex.

| | Number of previous abortions | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *0* | *1* | *2* | *3 or more* | *Total* |
| England | 124,042 | 47,464 | 11,009 | 3,703 | 186,218 |

*Note:*
Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0 to 9) cases and where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value when used with previously published data.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 24, *(d)* 25 to 29, *(e)* 30 to 34, *(f)* 35 to 39 and *(g)* over 40 years of age in (i) Essex Strategic Health Authority and (ii) England who had (A) no children, (B) one child, (C) two children, (D) three children, (E) four children and (F) five or more children had an abortion in 2008. [280978]

**Gillian Merron:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

*Number of abortions by parity and age for Essex PCTs[1] and for England, residents, 2008*

| | Number of previous live or stillborn pregnancies | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Essex PCTs[1]* | *0* | *1* | *2* | *3* | *4* | *5 or more* | *Total* |
| Total | 2,842 | 1,031 | 960 | 445 | 113 | 47 | 5,438 |
| Under 19 | 846 | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | 897 |
| 19 to 24 | 1,245 | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | 1,856 |
| 25 to 29 | 432 | 249 | 237 | 103 | [2] | [2] | 1,055 |
| 30 to 34 | 182 | 195 | 233 | 131 | [2] | [2] | 787 |
| 35 to 39 | 104 | 106 | 224 | 112 | 30 | 16 | 592 |
| 40 and over | 33 | 43 | 97 | 49 | 15 | 14 | 251 |

| | Number of previous live or stillborn pregnancies | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | *0* | *1* | *2* | *3* | *4* | *5* | *6* | *7 or more* | *Total* |
| Total | 97,003 | 37,739 | 31,452 | 13,304 | 4,527 | 1,453 | 478 | 262 | 186,218 |
| Under 16 | 3,862 | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | 3,884 |
| 16 to 18 | 22,803 | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | 25,115 |
| 19 to 24 | 41,948 | 14,971 | 6,106 | 1,370 | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | 64,705 |
| 25 to 29 | 17,209 | 9,662 | 8,317 | 3,521 | 994 | 266 | [2] | [2] | 40,057 |
| 30 to 34 | 6,990 | 5,813 | 7,649 | 3,530 | 1,306 | 432 | 139 | 77 | 25,936 |
| 35 to 39 | 3,155 | 3,681 | 6,343 | 3,281 | 1,283 | 466 | 182 | 106 | 18,497 |
| 40 and over | 1,036 | 1,470 | 2,867 | 1,581 | 679 | 251 | 88 | 52 | 8,024 |

[1] Totals shown relate to PCTs for Mid Essex, North East Essex, South East Essex, South West Essex and West Essex.
[2] Suppressed total less than 10 (0 to 9) or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the reasons for trends in the abortion rate in England in 2007 and 2008; and if he will make a statement. [281099]

**Gillian Merron:** No research has been commissioned or is planned in this specific area and no future forecast of abortion rates has been made.

The reasons women seek an abortion are complex and may be subject to a number of different factors. It is difficult to attribute any changes to one intervention or event.

Contraception plays a vital role in preventing unintended pregnancy. Last year, the Government invested £26.8 million and has made a further £20.5 million available this year to improve women's access to contraception and help reduce the number of abortions, repeat abortions and teenage pregnancies. In addition, from 1 April 2009, contracts for national health service funded abortions include a requirement for providers to discuss and provide contraception for their clients.

## Community Hospitals

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he expects to be allocated to community hospitals under the Community Hospitals Fund in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279929]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** To date, 28 schemes have been awarded funding, totalling around £250 million and the following table sets this out in more detail.

*Current approved schemes*

| *Strategic health authority* | *Primary care trust (PCD* | *Scheme* | *Department of Health funding (£ million rounded)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | Sunderland Teaching | Washington Primary Care Centre | 8.9 |
| North East | Hartlepool | Hartlepool Primary Care Facility | 3.0 |
| North West | Stockport | St. Thomas' | 26.6 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | Calderdale PCT, Kirklees PCT | Calderdale and Kirklees Community Services | 13.8 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | Rotherham | Rotherham Primary Care Centre | 1.0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | North Yorkshire and York | Selby Health and Community Campus | 13.0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | East Riding of Yorkshire | East Riding Community Hospitals (Beverley, Hornsea and Driffield) | 17.0 |
| East Midlands | Nottingham County Teaching | Ashfield Community Hospital | 1.149 |
| West Midlands | Worcestershire | Malvern Community Hospital | 19.2 |
| East of England | Suffolk | Felixstowe General Hospital | 1.8 |
| London | Haringey | Hornsey Community Hospital | 1.76 |
| London | Barking and Dagenham | Barking Hospital | 5.0 |
| London | Richmond and Twickenham | Teddington Health and Social Care Centre | 4.0 |
| London | Barnet | Finchley Memorial Hospital | 9.9 |
| London | Kensington and Chelsea | St. Charles Hospital | 10.5 |
| London | Greenwich | Eltham and Mottingham Hospital | 4.6 |
| South East Coast | Hastings and Rother | Hastings Primary Health Care Centre | 12.3 |
| South East Coast | Eastern and Coastal Kent | Health and Social Care Centre at Kings Avenue, Ashford, Kent | 9.0 |
| South Central | Hampshire | Gosport War Memorial Hospital | 6.1 |
| South Central | Southampton | Royal South Hants Hospital | 6.1 |
| South Central | Portsmouth City Teaching | St. Mary's Community Hospital | 17.1 |
| South Central | Buckinghamshire | Thame | 4.0 |
| South West | South Gloucestershire | Yate Community Health Centre | 5.0 |
| South West | Somerset | Minehead Healthy Living Park | 24.5 |
| South West | Bristol | South Bristol Community Hospital | 3.9 |
| South West | Bath and North East Somerset | Keynsham Health Park | 5.8 |
| South West | Gloucestershire | Berkeley Vale | 6.4 |
| South West | Gloucestershire | North Cotswolds | 13.2 |
| Total Department of Health funding | | | c.250 |

## Dental Services

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the criteria applicable to the job specification for dental practice advisers; and if he will make a statement. [281172]

**Ann Keen:** We have placed a model job description for a primary care trust dental adviser, which was prepared by the National Association of Dental Advisers, on the National Health Service Primary Care Commissioning website at:

www.pcc.nhs.uk/435

We will be advising on the role of the advisers in the dental public health team in guidance in preparation on building capacity and capability in dental public health.

## Departmental Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made; [278739]

(2) how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278740]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008, the Department is required to give a summary report on data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner in our annual resource accounts.

The Department reported on personal data breaches in the 2007-08 annual resource account and this can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_089421

The Department had no reportable losses or other incidents involving personal information in the year ended 30 April 2009 and therefore made no notifications to the Information Commissioner.

In the past 12 months, no member of the Department's staff has been disciplined or dismissed for breaches of data protection requirements or inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data.

Similarly, no disciplinary actions for these reasons have been carried out in the Department's agencies—Purchasing and Supply Agency and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency—in the past year.

Information is a key asset to Government and their correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of Her Majesty's Government. The

Security Policy Framework and the Data Handling Report produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of primary care trusts which store unencrypted personal data on *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* memory sticks and *(c)* other portable media devices; and if he will make a statement. [278856]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** All national health service organisations are individually legally responsible for the data in their possession and for complying with data protection legislation. They are expected to take data loss extremely seriously and to be open about incidents and the action taken as a result. Strategic health authorities are now required to regularly publish details of data losses on their websites. The NHS chief executive has written to all senior NHS managers reminding them of their responsibilities, and to make it clear that patient data should not be stored on unencrypted portable media.

The appropriate management of patient records is a key core standard against which the Care Quality Commission assesses all NHS bodies.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* companies, *(b)* consultancies and *(c)* other external firms have been contracted to review his Department's advertising in the last 10 years; and at what cost in each case. [278265]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has not contracted any companies, consultancies or other external firms to review its advertising programme in the last 10 years.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department are paid an annual salary of more than £100,000. [278489]

**Phil Hope:** There were 71 senior civil servants in the Department who earned a salary of over £100,000 at 1 April 2008. Salary includes base pay and all pay-related allowances. Further details are available in the departmental report 2009, which was published on 11 June 2009.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what each *(a)* of his Department's arms length bodies, *(b)* strategic health authority and *(c)* special health authority has spent on public affairs consultancy in each of the last 10 years. [279216]

**Phil Hope:** The information for strategic health authorities is not held centrally.

The information for arms length bodies (ALBs), including special health authorities (SpHAs), is shown in the following table:

*Expenditure*

£

| *ALB's (including SpHAs)* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2000-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Appointments Commission | Not in existence | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Alcohol Education and Research Council | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence | Not in existence | | | | This information is not available centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost | | | | | |
| General Social Care Council | Not in existence | | 0 | 5,699 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Health Protection Agency | Not in existence | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority | This information is not available centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost | | | | | | | | | |
| Human Tissue Authority | Not in existence | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Information Centre[1] | Not in existence | | | | | | 0 | 83,637 | 34,639 | 81,427 |
| Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency | Not in existence | | | | 0 | 0 | 34,000 | 34,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Monitor-Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts | Not in existence | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 49,700 |

Expenditure

£

| ALB's (including SpHAs) | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2000-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NHS Business Services Authority[1] | Not in existence | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NHS Blood and Transplant[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11,461 | 26,176 |
| NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement[1] | Not in existence | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NHS Litigation Authority[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency | Not in existence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NHS Professional[1] | Not in existence | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence[1] | This information is not available centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost | | | | | | | | | |
| National Patient Safety Agency[1] | Not in existence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| National Treatment Agency for substance Misuse[1] | Not in existence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,657 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board | Not in existence | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Denotes a special health authority.

## Doctors: Immigration

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the number of non-UK doctors granted entry *(a)* through the points-based system and *(b)* otherwise is required for the NHS to operate at capacity. [280856]

**Ann Keen:** The United Kingdom medical work force is moving towards greater self-sufficiency as the increase in medical school places produces more UK trained doctors year on year. The medical profession is internationally mobile and the number of non-UK trained doctors finding employment in the UK will vary by specialty and geography, reflecting service demands and the flows of UK doctors. The Department has worked with the UK Borders Agency to ensure a number of routes are available through the points based system to allow the national health service to recruit the doctors it needs. This includes recruitment through the tier 5 medical training initiative.

## Health Services: Elderly

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of standards of out-of-hospital *(a)* palliative and *(b)* dementia care for elderly patients in (i) England, (ii) Essex and (iii) Castle Point; and if he will make a statement. [281876]

**Phil Hope:** As part of the work to develop the End of Life Care Strategy and the National Dementia Strategy, evidence was considered on all aspects of end of life care, including palliative care, services and dementia care services for adults in England as a whole, irrespective of age. The outcome of this work is reflected in the two strategies, which were published in July 2008 and February 2009 respectively. Copies of the strategies have already been placed in the Library and are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_086277

and

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094058

We have made no assessment of the standards of out-of-hospital end of life care or dementia care for elderly patients in Essex or Castle Point. This is the responsibility of local primary care trusts and Essex county council.

## Health Services: Technology

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the proposals in the Digital Britain report for development of telecare and assistive technology; and if he will make a statement. [281487]

**Phil Hope:** Our Departments work closely together on the development of telecare and assistive technology. The Digital Britain Report highlights assisted living as a key example of communications-enabled innovation. This is supported by the Technology Strategy Board through its assisted living innovation platform.

Officials from both the Department of Health and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills sit on the Assisted Living Innovation Platform Steering Board to ensure that applied research addresses the needs of public service delivery within a developing digital infrastructure. The Department's whole system demonstrator programme is testing the effectiveness of current assisted living technologies. The challenges identified by this programme have a direct influence on the targeting of research within the assisted living innovation platform.

### Hospital Beds: Elderly

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds allocated for care of the elderly there were in hospitals in England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [281787]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The number of occupied and available bed days and day only beds is collected annually, from national health service providers by ward classification. The following table shows the number of available beds by ward classification in which care of the elderly could take place.

*Average daily number of available beds in wards open overnight by ward classification, England, 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| | Available beds | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ward classification* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Intensive care: wholly or mainly adult | 3,283 | 3,417 | 3,454 | 3,622 | 3,667 |
| Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult | 386 | 436 | 427 | 395 | 411 |
| Other general and acute: elderly: normal care | 25,580 | 24,853 | 22,987 | 21,141 | 19,239 |
| Other general and acute: elderly: limited care | 1,874 | 1,788 | 1,705 | 1,756 | 1,462 |
| Other general and acute: other | 94,289 | 94,030 | 92,850 | 89,042 | 86,137 |
| Mental illness: elderly: short stay | 7,528 | 7,475 | 7,343 | 6,945 | 6,577 |
| Mental illness: elderly: long stay | 4,574 | 4,043 | 3,591 | 2,832 | 2,417 |

*Note:*
The Department collects annual data on a total of 24 ward classifications. The table above shows available beds in ward classifications which are classified specifically for care of the elderly or could be used for care of the elderly.
*Source:*
Department of Health form KH03

### In Vitro Fertilisation

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 341W, on in vitro fertilisation: standards, what assessment he has made of the level of compliance of assisted fertility centres with the requirements of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority in respect of witnessing clinical and laboratory practices during in vitro fertilisation treatment; and if he will make a statement. [281224]

**Gillian Merron:** The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has advised that the compliance of individual assisted fertility centres with the authority requirements in respect of witnessing clinical and laboratory practices is assessed in the course of an inspection and the findings documented in the inspection report. Compliance is assessed for individual clinics on a case by case basis.

The HFEA's report "Focus on Improvement" comments on licensed clinics' performance between April 2006 and March 2007. The report is available on the HFEA's website at:

www.hfea.gov.uk/docs/Focus_on_improvement_report_final2.pdf

### Learning Disability

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on social care for people with a learning disability in 2008-09. [281491]

**Phil Hope:** Data on local authority expenditure on state funded social care are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The gross current expenditure for adults aged 18 to 64 with learning disabilities in England during 2007-08 was £3,450 million.

Expenditure data for adults aged 65 or over with learning disabilities are not collected centrally.

Data for 2008-09 are not yet available.

### Maternity Services

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the £330 million three-year allocation for improvements to maternity services was committed in 2008-09. [281126]

**Ann Keen:** The £330 million that is being made available over three years is included in primary care trust (PCT) baseline allocations. These allocations are not ring-fenced, and PCTs are able to determine how best to deliver national requirements and local priorities including how much to invest in particular services. The amount of expenditure that has been committed to maternity services is therefore determined by the national health service locally and not the Department. Data on total expenditure on maternity in 2008-09 are not yet available until the autumn.

### Maternity Services: Manpower

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what account he expects strategic health authorities to take of the 2008 non-medical workforce census in their maternity workforce plans; [281120]

(2) what estimate his Department uses of *(a)* the rate of attrition from training student midwives and *(b)* the proportion of newly-qualified midwives who secure employment as midwives with the NHS for the purposes of midwifery workforce planning; [281121]

(3) how many former NHS midwives returned to practise in the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available; [281123]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the number of midwives retiring from the NHS in the next 10 years. [281124]

**Ann Keen:** It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local authorities, strategic health authorities (SHAs) and other local stakeholders to determine and plan the workforce they need to provide high quality maternity services in their localities.

The NHS Workforce Review Team (WRT) provides workforce planning support to strategic health authorities (SHAs), commissioners and providers across the National Health Service in England. WRT's annual publication Assessment of Workforce Priorities sets out the priority issues within workforce for health and social care, based on healthcare policy workforce need and assessment of the supply and demand factors that impact on clinical staff groups, building on workforce planning assumptions for; attrition, retirement and return to practice. This publication alongside other workforce planning publications can be viewed on WRT's website at: www.wrt.nhs.uk

SHAs reported in February 2008 that they planned to grow the midwifery workforce by up to 4,000 by 2012. This is contingent on the rising birth rate.

### Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency: Pay

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in each of the last five years. [280322]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) does not hold the information in the categories of staff requested. The following information is based on staff bonuses received by staff at senior civil service (SCS) grades and grades below SCS (Non SCS). Data for 2004-05 are unavailable.

£

| Category | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Performance Bonus (SCS including Directors) | n/a | 254,568 | 342,597 | 593,724 | 780,160 |
| Performance Bonus (Non SCS) | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | [1]41,611 |
| Bonus in lieu of salary increase (Non SCS) | n/a | 12,946 | 12,279 | 18,813 | 16,889 |
| Special Bonus (SCS and Non SCS) | n/a | 196,258 | 262,827 | 234,770 | 614,271 |
| Total | n/a | 463,772 | 617,704 | 847,307 | 1,411,320 |

[1] Introduced in 2008

### Muscular Dystrophy: Health Services

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is given to *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* social services on the care and treatment of people over the age of 18 with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. [281993]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Evidence website:

www.evidence.nhs.uk/

contains detailed clinical and social care advice suitable for health professionals involved in the care of those with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

### Muscular Dystrophy: Research

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Government funding is being made available for research into Duchenne muscular dystrophy in 2009-10. [281994]

**Ann Keen:** Both the Department and the Medical Research Council (MRC) support research into Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The MRC spent £2.1 million on such research in 2007-08. (Figures for more recent years are not yet available.) Projected departmental expenditure in the current financial year is principally expenditure by National Institute for Health Research Biomedical Research centres and amounts to £450,000.

### NHS: Billing

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 928W, on departmental billing, what steps he has taken to reduce the time taken by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency for payment of invoices; and what the total monetary value of contracts processed by the agency was in each of the last three years. [281996]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In May 2009, the Department published a document outlining the new commercial operating model. This will involve transferring the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency's (PASA) functions to organisations that can add greater scope, scale and impact to the procurement of goods and services.

The total monetary value of contracts (invoices paid) processed by the agency in each of the last three years is shown in the following table.

| Financial year | Total value of invoices paid (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 15 |
| 2007-08 | 16 |
| 2008-09 | 25 |

### NHS: Crimes of Violence

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported assaults on *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses there were in each strategic health authority area in each year since 1997. [280781]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested. Since 2004-05, information on the number of physical assaults reported against national health service staff in England has been collected by the NHS Security Management Service. This information is shown in the following table:

| | Number of assaults |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 60,385 |
| 2005-06 | 58,695 |
| 2006-07 | 55,709 |
| 2007-08 | 35,993 |

Tables showing the number of physical assaults reported by each health body have been placed in the Library.

### NHS: Finance

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average management charge was levied by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency for contracts issued by it in the latest period for which figures are available. [281874]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency makes no charges to national health service trusts for management costs in respect of contracts arranged by it. The agency works to a fixed resource budget which is agreed with the Department annually, details of which are published in the annual report and accounts.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average change in prices under the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency contracts was in each of the last two years. [281875]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is not collected in the format requested, to do so would attract disproportionate cost.

The agency reported £499.8 million in savings during 2007-08 on 360 contracts to the value of £3,321 million. Savings of £599 million were reported in 2008-09 on 313 contracts to the value of £3,229 million.

### Nursing and Midwifery Council

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken by the Nursing and Midwifery Council in the last 12 months to ensure that registrants have indemnity insurance. [281603]

**Ann Keen:** The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), within their guidance, recommends that a registered nurse, midwife or specialist community public health nurse in advising, treating and caring for patients/clients, has professional indemnity insurance. This is in the interests of clients, patients and registrants in the event of claims and professional negligence.

While employers have vicarious liability for the negligent acts and/or omissions of their employees, such cover does not normally extend to activities undertaken outside the registrant's employment. Independent practice would not be covered by vicarious liability. It is the individual registrant's responsibility to establish their insurance status and take appropriate action.

In situations where an employer does not have vicarious liability, the NMC recommends that registrants obtain adequate professional indemnity insurance. If unable to secure professional indemnity insurance, a registrant will need to demonstrate that all their clients/patients are fully informed of this fact and the implications this might have in the event of a claim for professional negligence.

Although such standards are not binding, registrants breaching them risk being sanctioned under their regulator's fitness to practise procedures.

The NMC have also been working closely with the Department, Devolved Administrations, employers, Trades Unions and patient representatives on draft proposals, which would require compulsory indemnity as a condition of registration. However, following concerns expressed by nursing and midwifery unions, the former Secretary of State has recently announced a review of policy on indemnity insurance. The NMC have been advised the proposals have been put on hold pending the outcome of the review.

### Nutrition: Health Services

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include incentives for conducting nutritional screening in the community pharmacy contractual framework. [280487]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to him by the then Minister of State for Public Health (Dawn Primarolo) on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 703W. There are no plans to include incentives for pharmacists to undertake nutritional screening as part of the community pharmacy contractual framework.

### Patients: Safety

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of each type of patient safety incident occurred in each NHS trust between April and September 2008; and what percentage of such incidents in each such trust fell within each degree of harm. [281107]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is shown in a table provided by the National Patient Safety Agency that has been placed in the Library.

### Poultry Meat: Import Controls

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to prevent the importation of chicken injected with pork and beef waste; and if he will make a statement. [281406]

**Gillian Merron:** Hydrolysed animal proteins, such as from beef or pork, can legally be used as ingredients to retain added water in meat products and preparations. The use of such protein ingredients in injected chicken preparations has no safety implications but as with all ingredients they have to be properly labelled so that consumers are accurately informed.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has recently carried out a small study on some of the injection powders that are used to retain added water in chicken preparations, evaluating the use of a novel method to identify the animal origin of the proteins used. Initial findings from this study indicated the presence of beef and pork collagen proteins in the powders tested. The issue is that these proteins were not declared.

The FSA has already raised these findings with the European Commission and enforcement authorities in the relevant member states and ongoing discussions are taking place to resolve the issue. The FSA is also working with researchers to establish what further work is needed to enable the new methodology to be used for routine analysis.

### Primary Care Trusts

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts made bids for funding from the Community Hospitals Fund in each of the last three years; how many such bids were successful; how much was allocated in respect of each such bid; and if he will make a statement. [279933]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In total 51 primary care trusts (PCTs) made bids for funding, of which 28 were successful. The successful bids are listed as follows, along with their respective total departmental allocations.

| *Strategic health authority* | *PCT* | *Scheme* | *Department of Health funding (£ million rounded)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | Sunderland Teaching | Washington Primary Care Centre | 8.9 |
| North East | Hartlepool | Hartlepool Primary Care Facility | 3.0 |
| North West | Stockport | St. Thomas' | 26.6 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | Calderdale PCT, Kirklees PCT | Calderdale and Kirklees Community Services | 13.8 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | Rotherham | Rotherham Primary Care Centre | 1.0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | North Yorkshire and York | Selby Health and Community Campus | 13.0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | East Riding of Yorkshire | East Riding Community Hospitals (Beverley, Hornsea and Driffield) | 17.0 |
| East Midlands | Nottingham County Teaching | Ashfield Community Hospital | 1.149 |
| West Midlands | Worcestershire | Malvern Community Hospital | 19.2 |
| East of England | Suffolk | Felixstowe General Hospital | 1.8 |
| London | Haringey | Hornsey Community Hospital | 1.76 |
| London | Barking and Dagenham | Barking Hospital | 5.0 |
| London | Richmond and Twickenham | Teddington Health and Social Care Centre | 4.0 |
| London | Barnet | Finchley Memorial Hospital | 9.9 |
| London | Kensington and Chelsea | St. Charles Hospital | 10.5 |
| London | Greenwich | Eltham and Mottingham Hospital | 4.6 |
| South East Coast | Hastings and Rother | Hastings Primary Health Care Centre | 12.3 |
| South East Coast | Eastern and Coastal Kent | Health and Social Care Centre at Kings Avenue, Ashford, Kent | 9.0 |
| South Central | Hampshire | Gosport War Memorial Hospital | 6.1 |
| South Central | Southampton | Royal South Hants Hospital | 6.1 |
| South Central | Portsmouth City Teaching | St. Mary's Community Hospital | 17.1 |
| South Central | Buckinghamshire | Thame | 4.0 |
| South West | South Gloucestershire | Yate Community Health Centre | 5.0 |
| South West | Somerset | Minehead Healthy Living Park | 24.5 |
| South West | Bristol | South Bristol Community Hospital | 3.9 |
| South West | Bath and North East Somerset | Keynsham Health Park | 5.8 |
| South West | Gloucestershire | Berkeley Vale | 6.4 |
| South West | Gloucestershire | North Cotswolds | 13.2 |
| Total Department of Health funding | | | c. 250 |

## Sheltered Housing: Elderly

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of older people living in *(a)* extra care and *(b)* extra sheltered accommodation. [281485]

**Phil Hope:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

## Social Services: Elderly

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many older people receive social care. [281483]

**Phil Hope:** Data on the number of people receiving social services funded either fully or partially by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) in England are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care as part of the referrals, assessments and packages of care return.

We are informed by the Information Centre that, during the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, the latest for which data are available, 1,221,000 adults aged 65 and over in England received a social care service funded either partly or wholly by their CASSR following a community care assessment.

## Treatment Centres: Southampton

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors from Southampton General Hospital have been seconded to the independent sector treatment centre in Southampton in each month since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [281376]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The number of doctors that have been seconded from Southampton University Hospital Trust to the Southampton NHS Treatment Centre, on a monthly basis, since it opened on 28 October 2008 is shown in the following table.

| | *Whole-time equivalent (WTE)* |
|---|---|
| November 2008 | 6.83 |
| December 2008 | 9.78 |
| January 2009 | 12.39 |
| February 2009 | 13.77 |
| March 2009 | 13.77 |
| April 2009 | 13.77 |

### Weather

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 404W, on weather, what the costs were of *(a)* revising each of the three web-based documents and *(b)* printing and posting the leaflet. [281260]

**Gillian Merron:** The Heatwave Plan itself is a web-based document only.

To date, the cost of producing and distributing the 2009 package of Heatwave Plan documents is £79,504.79, made up of the cost of revising the three web-based documents and enabling them to be downloaded from the Department's website, and the printing and posting costs of the leaflet. The breakdown of costs is:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Revision costs | 2,274.70 |
| Mail out of leaflets | 50,385.09 |
| Printing 900,000 copies of leaflet | 26,845.00 |

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Aviation: Government Assistance

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent application he has received from the aerospace sector for repayable launch investment; and if he will make a statement. [280594]

**Ian Lucas:** In the last 18 months, Government have received applications for repayable launch investment from Bombardier, GKN and Airbus. Each of these is being taken forward. We announced on 13 July 2008 agreement in principle to support to Bombardier Aerospace for the design and development of the composite wing for the new CSeries aircraft, approved by the European Commission on 18 June 2009. The final agreed figure of repayable launch investment was £113.37 million. Similarly, we announced on 15 September 2008, agreement to provide a £60 million repayable launch investment to GKN Aerospace for the design and development of the rear spar and fixed trailing edge on the new Airbus A350 XWB aircraft, subject to European Commission approval. We are currently in detailed negotiations with Airbus about funding arrangements for the A350 XWB aircraft.

### Business: Advisory Services

**John Penrose:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made in simplifying the reporting of inconsistent or inaccurate guidance as referred to in the Government's response to the Anderson Review of Good Guidance. [274369]

**Ian Lucas:** The better regulation website provides a simple way for businesses to report inaccurate or inconsistent guidance. Issues are handled by the relevant Department or agency and a response posted on the website. A new version of the site has recently been launched and provides a clearer and more up to date web form which businesses can use to report issues.

The facility to report inconsistent or inaccurate guidance is available at:

http://www.betterregulation.gov.uk/idea/

### Business: Government Assistance

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress the Government has made towards its target of reducing administrative burdens on the private and third sectors by 25 per cent. by 2010. [280121]

**Ian Lucas:** As at December 2008, Departments, Regulators and Agencies involved in the administrative burden reduction programme reported delivery of £1,888 million of annual net administrative savings, i.e. a 14.4 per cent. reduction.

Progress for each Department, Regulator or Agency is reported in their Simplification Plans which can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/bre/policy/simplifying-existing-regulation/simplification-plans/2007/page44068.html

To ensure that the reduction efforts are felt on the ground, claimed savings are scrutinised by a External Validation Panel, made up of representatives from business organisations, before they are reported. The Government will report further progress in December 2009.

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress the Government has made towards its target of identifying annual net reductions in costs to private sector organisations of £3.5 billion by 2010. [280133]

**Ian Lucas:** The Government's target is to deliver a 25 per cent. annual net reduction in the administrative burdens on regulation affecting businesses and third sector organisations by May 2010, so reducing costs by an estimated £3.4 billion. As at December 2008, Departments, regulators and agencies involved in the administrative burden reduction programme reported delivery of £1,888 million of annual net administrative savings, i.e. a 14.4 per cent. reduction.

Progress for each Department, regulator or agency is reported in their Simplification Plans which can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/bre/policy/simplifying-existing-regulation/simplification-plans/2007/page44068.html

To ensure that the reduction efforts are felt on the ground, claimed savings are scrutinised by an External Validation Panel, made up of representatives from business organisations, before they are reported. The Government will report further progress in December 2009.

### Business: Human Rights

**Mr. McCartney:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the further development of the toolkit on business and human rights. [279653]

**Ian Lucas:** My officials have been closely involved in discussions with officials of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the development of a toolkit on business and

human rights for UK overseas posts. The toolkit is still being developed and various stakeholders are being consulted. No discussions have taken place between the two Departments at ministerial level.

## Business: Regulation

**Mr. Binley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to businesses of regulations due to come into force in April 2009. [261345]

**Ian Lucas:** Government Departments publish details of regulatory changes introduced on the two common commencement dates of 6 April and 1 October on the BusinessLink website:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/ccds

In April 2009, 22 regulatory changes were published on BusinessLink.

These included the second phase of the extension to the statutory entitlement to four weeks' paid holiday required under the EU working time directive, making it additional to the number of bank holidays in England and Wales. This extended the right for all workers from 24 to 28 days holiday a year. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Economics and Business on 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1274W. The cost to business of this second phase was estimated at between £1.8 billion and 2.4 billion.

The remaining 21 regulatory changes are estimated to have a total additional net cost to business of approximately £30 million. The estimated total benefits of these 21 regulatory changes are in excess of £230 million, it is not always possible to monetise the benefits of regulation.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations Ministers from his Department and its predecessors have made to the European Union on a reduction in the regulatory burden on business in the last 12 months. [280738]

**Ian Lucas:** Following successful Government lobbying at the Spring European Council in 2007 to secure agreement to a target to reduce administrative burdens stemming from EU law by 25 per cent. by 2012, Ministers from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessors have continued to push the European Commission to bring forward simplification proposals as a matter of priority.

This has already resulted in the Commission presenting a proposal to give member states the option to exempt micro-enterprises from the requirements of the accounting directives. In January, the Commission committed to making:

> "Every effort... to adopt these proposals before the end of this Commission mandate."

Ministers were instrumental in paving the way for the 2009 Spring European Council conclusions which urged the Commission to go one step further and:

> "present all proposals in each of the 13 priority areas before the end of its mandate".

Ministers were also key in getting better regulation measures into the Small Business Act for Europe which was agreed in June 2008.

As a result, the Act stresses the importance of reducing administrative burdens and includes a Commission commitment to assess the impact on SMEs of all forthcoming legislative and administrative initiatives and to use 'specific measures' such as transition periods, derogations and exemptions for small and micro firms, wherever appropriate.

EU member states endorsed the Small Business Act in December 2008, calling for action to be prioritised in areas where it will have most impact, including better regulation. Ministers pressed for this emphasis and continue to underline the importance of implementing better regulation commitments at the EU level at every opportunity.

## Climate Change

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount officials at each grade are working in his Department's energy and climate change unit; and which Minister is responsible for the unit; [273649]

(2) what the budget under each sub-heading is of his Department's energy and climate change unit in 2009-10; and what the *(a)* responsibilities and *(b)* programme of work are of that unit. [273650]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* There are 17 full-time equivalent posts in the energy and climate change unit and a current vacancy with a Range 11 official covering the SCS post. The breakdown is as follows:

*Posts in the energy and climate change unit by grade*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| SCS | [1] 1 |
| R11 | 2 |
| R10 | 6 |
| R8 | 5 |
| R5/PA | 1 |
| Faststream | 1 |
| Industry secondee | 1 |

[1] Vacant post

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 55W, to the hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare (John Penrose) and to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the then Minister for Business and Economics on 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1470W, to the hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare (John Penrose).

Following the recent reshuffle, Lord Drayson is the Minister responsible for the unit within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

## Debts: Advisory Services

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what services his Department's face-to-face debt advice project has provided since September 2008; how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group have applied for assistance under the project since September 2008;

what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of such people who have had their debt problems resolved; whether the project is able to loan money to applicants; and if he will make a statement. [281100]

**Ian Lucas:** The Department's face-to-face debt advice project—funded by the Treasury's Financial Inclusion Fund—provides the crucial broad range of advice assistance required by those facing crisis debt situations. From 1 October 2008 to 31 March 2009 51,131 clients were helped. The split between males and females seen is roughly 46.8 per cent. male and 53.2 female and this gives the numbers seen as 23,929 men and 27,202 women. The project does not claim to resolve every single aspect of the debt problems of all clients but a large number of clients are helped to arrange debt repayment plans. All are offered on-going assistance until they are satisfied unlike some funding schemes that have cut off points.

There is no facility to loan people money from the project. However, the Financial Inclusion Fund also funds the Department for Work and Pension's Growth Fund and this helps facilitate credit union loans to people in our client target group.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many public consultations have been conducted by his Department and its predecessors since 27 June 2007; what the title of each was ; how many responses were received to each; and what estimate he has made of the cost incurred for each consultation. [280915]

**Ian Lucas** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* BIS and its predecessors have conducted 79 consultations since 27 June 2007. The titles of those relating to the former BERR are listed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/index.html

The titles of the former DIUS ones are listed at

http://www.dius.gov.uk/consultations

The number of replies received for individual consultations is recorded in the government response documents—these are published on the above departmental websites alongside the consultations themselves. Providing the costs of conducting the consultations could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which section of his Department has lead responsibility for trade and export promotion of renewable energy. [280329]

**Ian Lucas:** UK Trade and Investment, which is a joint operation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, continues to promote the UK renewable energy industries internationally. UKTI's Energy Team, based in Glasgow, does this in close partnership with the Department of Energy and Climate Change, which, through the organisation UK Renewables, supports the development of the renewables supply chain in the UK.

### Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what information his Department holds on the systems Royal Mail has in place to monitor the content of mail order catalogues from health food manufacturers distributing products from the Channel Islands who have previously breached the requirements of the Advertising Standards Agency's Committee on Advertising Practice code; [281104]

(2) what information his Department holds on action taken by Royal Mail against health food manufacturers operating from the Channel Islands whose mail order catalogues were found to be in breach of the requirements of the Advertising Standards Agency's Committee on Advertising Practice code in the last 12 months. [281105]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department is not aware that Royal Mail has any such systems in place.

There are no specific powers in the Postal Services Act 2000 to control direct-mail advertising from the Channel Islands. Royal Mail is legally obliged to deliver all mail to given addresses and has no control over the contents of postal packets or letters which have been properly posted, paid for and correctly addressed.

### EU Internal Trade

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount saved by UK companies on tariffs on exports to EU countries consequent upon the UK's EU membership in the last 10 years. [277114]

**Ian Lucas:** No estimate has been made because there is a lot of uncertainty as to what tariff and non-tariff barriers UK exporters to the EU would face if the UK were not a member. It is likely that even the UK was not a member, it would have some preferential access to EU markets, but this could be in several forms.

In the extreme or worst case scenario UK businesses could be forced to pay the most favoured nation tariff (the tariff applied to countries with no preferential access) to export to the EU. Higher tariff and non tariff barriers in this scenario would decrease the competitiveness of UK exports in the EU, and therefore would likely reduce the volume of trade taking place—meaning a greater loss of jobs and business opportunities for UK companies.

The UK would therefore have the incentive to enter some sort of free trade agreement with the EU. Such agreements remove tariffs for the majority of goods but vary greatly in the extent to which they remove non-tariff barriers. These include differences in regulations (health and safety regulations for example) which make exporting to the EU more costly. They vary also greatly in the extent to which they cover other areas of great economic importance like trade in services, investment, intellectual property matters, migration, competition issues as well as public procurement.

In the best case scenario, the UK would still enjoy full access to the single market like the members of the European free trade area. That would mean however that it would have to take on board all EU regulations

linked to the single market now and in the future, with no influence on designing them. Just like Norway, the UK would probably also have to contribute financially to continue benefiting from this access.

Calculating the costs imposed on UK businesses under all of these possible outcomes could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Insolvency

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of business failures in the last 12 months attributable to late payments; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of such failures. [279985]

**Ian Lucas:** The Insolvency Service routinely publishes information on the profile of companies that enter compulsory liquidation including causes of failure. The latest report, published in May, covers the period 2005/06 to 2007/08 and therefore information on causes of failure in the last 12 months is not yet available but will be issued in due course.

While figures specifically considering late payments are not available, among those companies entering compulsory liquidation in 2007/08 the most common causes of failure were a loss of market (22 per cent. of cases) and management failure (20.4 per cent.). Financial difficulties were identified as the primary cause of failure in 13.4 per cent. of compulsory liquidations and bad debts were cited in 11.1 per cent. of cases. The failure of a company was attributed to the knock on effect from the failure of another business in 4.1 per cent. of compulsory liquidations.

### Insolvency: Ports

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what records the Insolvency Service holds on the number of firms in ports which have gone into administration in the last six months. [279898]

**Ian Lucas:** There is insufficient, detailed information held centrally, and in a readily available format, to provide an answer to this question. This is because:

firms in ports is not a standard industry classification and therefore is not recorded; and

addresses are not available to count companies giving a port as part of their address.

### Iraq

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants from his Department are based in *(a)* Basra, *(b)* Baghdad, *(c)* Erbil and *(d)* other locations in Iraq. [279965]

**Ian Lucas:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has three permanent positions in Baghdad, consisting of one UK based officer and two locally engaged staff.

Alongside the full time staff allocation, UKTI is currently employing two business consultants in Iraq on contracts that run through to the end of July and August 2009.

Currently there are no civil servants from this Department based in Basra. However the situation is currently being reviewed.

There are no plans to recruit positions in Erbil or other locations in Iraq.

### LDV

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the administrators of LDV Group on the future of the business. [281615]

**Ian Lucas** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* I have not had any discussions with the Administrators of LDV.

### Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the car scrappage scheme applies to mobility-supplied vehicles which are over 10 years old. [278838]

**Ian Lucas:** Under the scheme motorists are being offered a discount of £2,000 on a new car or van if they trade in vehicles for scrappage that they have owned for 12 or more months and which were registered in the UK before 31 August 1999. Motability supplied vehicles which meet the criteria of the scheme are eligible.

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* Jaguar Land Rover and *(b)* Morgan Motor Company Ltd. on the automotive industry in the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [279356]

**Ian Lucas:** Ministers and officials have been in regular dialogue with representatives of Jaguar Land Rover as well as a range of other companies in the west midlands, to discuss how best to provide the support the industry needs. Ministers from the then BERR visited Morgan last August.

Officials also attended a JLR supplier event at Gaydon in early May. The event led directly to new interest in support available from Government. Following a series of workshops chaired by automotive assistance programme officials there have been additional dialogue/meetings and some expressions of interest.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many loans have been made to the automotive industry under the Automotive Assistance Programme since the programme became operational; and what the monetary value of such loans is. [280003]

**Ian Lucas:** We are currently in detailed discussions with a number of businesses about their applications for funding under the Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP).

There have been more than 70 further requests for information on the scheme with the AAP team working with companies resulting in around 18 approaches being developed into detailed discussions with BIS for serious applications, and there are others in the pipeline.

The details of support to companies are commercially sensitive and subject to agreement. As a general rule the Government's intention is to offer loan guarantees, though there is scope under the programme to offer loans as well.

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether cars which are 10 years old and which were first registered on the Isle of Man and are now registered in the UK are eligible for the car scrappage scheme. [281128]

**Ian Lucas** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* If the car was registered in the UK on or before 31 August 1999 and is registered in the UK now, then it is eligible provided all the other conditions of the scheme are met.

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many redundancies in the automotive sector have been notified to his Department and its predecessor in each month since January 2009. [281616]

**Ian Lucas** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* The number of advance notifications of proposed redundancies received between 1 January 2009 and 18 June 2009 for the automotive sector are as follows:

| | *Establishment* | *Proposed redundancies* |
|---|---|---|
| January 2009 | 40 | 2,278 |
| February 2009 | 26 | 2,515 |
| March 2009 | 34 | 1,998 |
| April 2009 | 22 | 1,318 |
| May 2009 | 11 | 513 |
| June 2009 to date | 7 | 1,027 |
| Total | 140 | 9,649 |

## Motor Vehicles: Research

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to promote research and development within the automotive industry. [279354]

**Ian Lucas:** The Technology Strategy Board's (TSB) low carbon vehicle innovation platform provides more than £100 million for research, development and demonstration, including the ultra-low carbon vehicle demonstrator programme.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has supported the establishment of Cenex. This is a delivery agency to promote UK market development and competitiveness in low carbon and fuel cell technologies for transport applications. Cenex's principal focus is on catalysing market transformation projects linking technology providers and end users. As part of this work, it runs a number of programmes for UK national and regional Government, including the low carbon vehicle procurement programme and the low carbon and fuel cell technology knowledge transfer network.

On 27 January 2009, Government announced the automotive assistance package (AAP). This series of measures was state aid cleared on 27 February. The primary aim of this package of up to £2.3 billion is to support the continued delivery of investment that will create or sustain jobs, develop cutting-edge technology, bring special value to the UK, reduce $CO_2$ emissions and maintain R and D in UK vehicle manufacturing.

The Government-facilitated, industry led new automotive innovation and growth team (NAIGT) published its report on 6 May. Key recommendations aimed at both industry and Government, included proposals to focus the UK automotive R and D agenda around a new industry-consensus technology roadmap. The Government's intention is to publish its formal response to the NAIGT report during the summer.

## North East Regional Development Agency

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* festivals and *(b)* other events the North East Regional Development Agency has undertaken to support or sponsor through the culture10 Partnership; and what sums have been allocated in each case. [279899]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Details of the investments proposed by all partners of the Culture 10 Programme (including One NorthEast) in 2009-10 are tabled as follows:

*Proposed Culture 10 Investments 2009-10*

| *Project title* | *Arts Council England NE* | *Newcastle city council* | *Gateshead council* | *One NorthEast* | *Northern Rock Foundation* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| International Village of Culture | — | — | — | 80,000 | — | 80,000 |
| ReGarrison of Hadrian's Wall | — | — | — | 320,000 | 30,000 | 350,000 |
| EAT! NewcastleGateshead Food Festival | — | 25,000 | 25,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 150,000 |
| The Late Shows | 25,000 | 15,000 | 10,000 | — | — | 50,000 |
| Great North Museum Opening | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| Hotel Monument | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| 2009 Evolution | — | 62,500 | 62,500 | 19,500 | 62,500 | 207,000 |
| Northern Rock Cyclone | — | — | — | 20,000 | — | 20,000 |
| 2009 Summer Tyne Festival (including Sing for Water) | — | — | 85,000 | 110,000 | 5,000 | 200,000 |

*Proposed Culture 10 Investments 2009-10*

| *Project title* | *Arts Council England NE* | *Newcastle city council* | *Gateshead council* | *One NorthEast* | *Northern Rock Foundation* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Summer Tyne Local Activity | — | — | — | — | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Aviva British Grand Prix | — | — | 75,000 | 125,000 | — | 200,000 |
| 2008 Print Biennale | — | 20,000 | — | 40,000 | 40,000 | 100,000 |
| International Cricket Matches | — | — | — | 350,000 | — | 350,000 |
| Durham Brass Festival | 32,500 | — | — | 32,500 | — | 65,000 |
| Reinventing the City | — | 50,000 | 50,000 | 40,000 | 50,000 | 190,000 |
| Tour of Britain | — | — | — | 200,000 | — | 200,000 |
| Nova Great North Run | — | 25,000 | 25,000 | 160,000 | — | 210,000 |
| Avison Live: Division Lobby | — | 5,000 | — | 10,000 | — | 15,000 |
| Xperience | — | — | — | 127,000 | — | 127,000 |
| Juice Childrens Festival | 50,000 | 65,000 | 65,000 | 100,000 | 20,000 | 300,000 |
| Gateshead International Cross Country Races | — | — | 50,000 | 50,000 | — | 100,000 |
| Durham Ilumenata II | — | — | — | 100,000 | — | 100,000 |
| Northumberland Winter Festival | 50,000 | — | — | 170,000 | 30,000 | 250,000 |
| Northern Lights Film Festival | — | 25,000 | — | 75,000 | — | 100,000 |
| NewcastleGateshead Winter Festival | — | 75,000 | 100,000 | — | 50,000 | 225,000 |
| AV Festival | 50,000 | — | — | 100,000 | — | 150,000 |
| Science Festival | — | — | — | 50,000 | — | 50,000 |
| Wildworks | — | — | — | 200,000 | 60,000 | 260,000 |
| Wildworks Local Activity | — | — | — | — | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| Live Art Festival | 50,000 | — | — | — | — | 50,000 |
| Odin's Glow—Tees Valley (Roseberry Topping) | 25,000 | — | — | 80,000 | 45,000 | 150,000 |
| Stockton Bridge Opening Celebration | 25,000 | — | — | 55,000 | — | 80,000 |
| NCC cultural partners | — | 250,000 | — | — | — | 250,000 |
| Total | 307,500 | 617,500 | 547,500 | 2,664,000 | 512,500 | 4,649,000 |

## Palestinians: Overseas Trade

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether new trading connections have been made between British and Palestinian businesses since the Palestine Trade and Investment Forum in December; and what steps his Department has taken to assist Palestinian produce in the British market. [278685]

**Ian Lucas:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) helps UK based companies succeed in international markets and also assists overseas companies to bring high quality investment to the UK. Although UKTI has no formal role in assisting overseas companies to export into the UK, the Department has contributed to discussions held since the London Forum on Trade and Investment with Palestine, on creating an export hub for Palestinian produce in the West Bank. UKTI provides a range of support services to British companies wishing to trade with or invest in Palestine, through commercial teams based in both the UK and the British Consulate General in Jerusalem. Although UKTI facilitates businesses wishing to trade, it does not hold records of business transactions completed.

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made in promoting and facilitating bilateral trade and investment in the Palestinian Territories since the launch of the Palestine-Britain Business Council in December 2008. [278686]

**Ian Lucas:** My noble Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Business visited Jerusalem and Ramallah on 20 May 2009, sharing ideas on boosting bilateral trade and economic links with Palestine's Minister for National Economy, the Governor of the Palestine Monetary Authority and senior members of the Palestinian business community. UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has worked closely with the Palestine-Britain Business Council since its launch in December 2008, and continues to provide a range of support services to British companies through teams based in both the UK and the British Consulate General in Jerusalem. Follow-up to December 2008's London Business Forum on Trade and Investment with Palestine includes a visit by Google to the West Bank in March 2009 to explore the potential for IT development and to give two training courses for Palestinians working in the ICT industry.

Plans have also been put in place for UK trade missions to the West Bank later in the year in the tourism and construction sectors.

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department is providing to the Palestine-Britain Business Council in 2009-10. [278687]

**Ian Lucas:** UKTI supports the work of the Palestine Britain Business Council by attending and contributing to meetings of UK Council members and through facilitating Business Council activity in both the UK and in Palestine. UKTI is working closely with the Business Council and other business stakeholders on follow-up to the London Business Forum on Trade and Investment in Palestine, held on 15 December 2008. Activities under discussion for 2009-10 include UK trade missions to Palestine in the Tourism and Construction sectors.

### Regional Development Agencies

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what related party transactions were declared by each board member of each of the regional development agencies in the last three years. [278540]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The following table shows RDA board members that have declared recordable donations in the last three years.

| *RDA* | *Board member* | *Political party to which transaction made* |
|---|---|---|
| Advantage West Midlands | Cllr. Kenneth Taylor | Conservative |
| East Midlands development agency | Cllr. Gary Hunt | Liberal Democrats |
| Northwest development agency | Cllr. Joe Dewek CBE | Labour |
| | Lord Peter Smith | Labour |
| South West regional development agency | Cllr. Duncan Hames | Liberal Democrats |
| | Cllr. Christine Reid | Labour |
| Yorkshire Forward | Cllr. Kathryn Pinnock | Liberal Democrats |

As at 11 June 2009 the East of England development agency, ONE North East, and South East of England development agency, do not have any board members who have declared making recordable donations to a political party during the last five years.

### Rolling Stock: Procurement

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the future procurement of rolling stock; and if he will make a statement. [280646]

**Ian Lucas:** None.

### Royal Mail

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps have been taken to ensure that proposals for the sale of parts of Royal Mail provide value for money. [280054]

**Ian Lucas:** It is important for the sale of any Government asset to provide value for money for the tax payer. This applies to the sale of any stake in Royal Mail as much as any other transaction.

For that reason Government were clear in their February policy document and with potential bidders, that the price offered for any stake would be a key factor in considering bids. Ministers have made it clear during the passage of the Postal Services Bill that they will not do a deal at any price.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies have submitted bids for part-ownership of Royal Mail. [280055]

**Ian Lucas:** Government have received a number of expressions of interest regarding a partnership with Royal Mail. At this stage of the process only TNT has made their interest public. For commercial confidentiality reasons it is not possible to provide any further details.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the outcome was of the Secretary of State's discussions on further share sales in Royal Mail beyond a 30 per cent. stake. [280056]

**Ian Lucas:** The exact percentage required to cement a partnership for Royal Mail is a matter for negotiation with any partner. The Department believes a 30 per cent. stake would ensure that a partner has the right incentive to take forward the modernisation of the business and to align their interests with those of Government.

The Government have held no discussions on further share sales beyond a partnership transaction. Flexibility is important, however, for example to ensure that some element of employee share ownership is possible in the future should this be shown to represent good value for money.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the asset value of Royal Mail has been calculated in the last two years; and what action was taken following each such calculation. [280057]

**Ian Lucas:** The Department looks at the asset value of Royal Mail on an annual basis for departmental accounts.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on what basis it was decided to propose a sale of 30 per cent. of Royal Mail; what other percentages were considered; and why they were rejected. [280058]

**Ian Lucas:** The level of shareholding required to cement a partnership for Royal Mail is a matter for negotiation with any partner. Government have cited a shareholding in the region of 30 per cent. as one which

would be sufficient for the partner to have a strong economic interest in Royal Mail and to ensure its incentives are fully aligned with those of the Government—namely to modernise the business rapidly and improve its performance.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* written and *(b)* oral representations Ministers in his Department have received on the timing of the proposed part-sale of Royal Mail; and what response has been made to those representations. [280059]

**Ian Lucas:** The Department has received numerous written and oral representations about our proposals for a strategic partnership for Royal Mail. We believe this is the best way to accelerate the modernisation of the business to secure its future and to ensure the maintenance of the universal postal service.

### Small Businesses: Credit

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from small businesses on their ability to buy goods on credit; and if he will make a statement. [264195]

**Ian Lucas:** The Government maintain a close dialogue with a range of business bodies that represent the interests of their members, including through groups such as the Small Business Finance Forum, and is in daily contact with individual businesses on the broad range of issues related to accessing finance. Membership of the Small Business Finance Forum includes the Finance and Leasing Association.

### South East of England Development Agency

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* land and *(b)* buildings owned by the South East of England Development Agency are unused. [279721]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information is as follows.

*(a) Unused land: Nil*

SEEDA acquire land specifically for a defined project and, therefore, does not own unused land.

*(b) Unused buildings: Nil*

Any unused buildings SEEDA owns are unsuitable for use because they are in various forms of regeneration or development.

### Trade: Developing Countries

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his officials have had with the new Indian government on the Doha Development Round; and if he will make a statement. [279557]

**Ian Lucas:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister regularly raises the Doha round in his contacts with other leaders. In this vein he raised it with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh last month. My noble Friend the Secretary of State raised it with Indian Commerce Minister Anand Sharma this month, and both he and my noble Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Business are due to meet Minister Sharma this month to discuss a range of issues including the Doha round.

The Doha round remains the UK Government's top trade priority and we will continue to work closely with our EU and international partners to secure a deal as early as possible.

### UK Trade and Investment: Low Carbon Sector

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what UK Trade and Investment support is planned for UK low carbon sector businesses at *(a)* the architecture seminar on sustainable buildings as part of the Singapore Design Festival in November 2009, *(b)* BESAsia in Kuala Lumpur in November 2009, *(c)* Technology World in November 2009, *(d)* the NanoForum and Energising Technologies Conference in November 2009, *(e)* the World Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi in January 2010, *(f)* Ecobuild in London in March 2010 and *(g)* the Shanghai World Expo in 2010; [280312]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the organisational chart for the UK Trade and Investment Low Carbon Sector Group; [280328]

(3) what work the UK Trade and Investment Low Carbon Sector Group has undertaken; and what further work is planned; [280330]

(4) who attended the UK Trade and Investment low carbon partnership event on 25 March 2009. [280373]

**Ian Lucas:** UK Trade and Investment aims to maximise international opportunities for UK businesses with low carbon products, services and solutions across the whole economy.

UK Trade and Investment is leading on a UK Low Carbon International Marketing Strategy. This is a partnership between business and Government to build the UK's low carbon reputation and position the UK to take advantage of global business opportunities.

The strategy's overarching messaging and case studies of UK low carbon solutions were launched at a partnership event on 25 March 2009. This was a joint event organised by UK Trade and Investment and the Carbon Trust. Approximately 70 representatives from UK business, professional bodies and organisations with low carbon solutions or interest in the low carbon economy attended, in addition to David Miliband, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and officials from UK Trade and Investment, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Next steps are to develop specific marketing for a number of sectors and to use this in the UK and overseas to market the UK's low carbon offer to secure trade and investment.

UK businesses will be able to showcase their low carbon solutions and meet international buyers at a number of events in the UK and overseas including the architecture seminar on sustainable buildings as part of the Singapore Design Festival in November 2009, BESAsia in Kuala Lumpur in November 2009, Technology World

in November 2009, the NanoForum and Energising Technologies Conference in November 2009, *(e)* the World Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi in January 2010, Ecobuild in London in March 2010 and *(g)* the Shanghai World Expo in 2010.

As low carbon has bearing on all sectors of the economy, it has relevance to all sector teams in UKTI sectors Group and to delivery by the UK Trade and Investment network as a whole. The Managing Director of Sectors Group in UK Trade and Investment is responsible for the development of UK International Marketing Strategies including low carbon.

### Uzbekistan: Imports

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the merits of banning imports of Uzbek cotton. [278981]

**Ian Lucas:** Most calls for a ban have been around concerns about labour abuses, especially the use of child labour, in Uzbekistan. The UK remains concerned about allegations of the use of child labour in the cotton sector in Uzbekistan. The UK has raised its concerns through the EU and has discussed this issue with the Uzbek government. The EU welcomed Uzbekistan's signing of the International Labour Organisation Conventions on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Minimum Age in 2008 and 2009 respectively and has urged Uzbekistan to implement effectively its international obligations in this regard.

The UK Government continue to call on businesses to look at their supply chains and take appropriate action if they find evidence that goods have been produced using child labour. Some companies have committed to not using Uzbek cotton in their products and monitor their direct supply chains to ensure that this is so.



### Video Games: Finance

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much financial support was given by UK Trade and Investment to the video games industry in 2007-08. [270806]

**Ian Lucas:** UK Trade and Investment supports the UK Video Game Industry through the ICT, Creative Industries and Education Sector Teams as well as through its overseas posts and regional colleagues based in the Regional Development Agencies.

Sector Codes used to account for spend by UKTI in 2007-08 do not include a 'video game' subsector. When one includes activities beneficial to the Video Game Industry through support of the entire Software sector in the UK and overseas, the approximate spend is £464,484.

### Working Capital Scheme

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Working Capital Scheme began operation; and how much funding has been provided under the scheme. [261386]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The Working Capital Guarantee Scheme was formally launched on 2 March 2009 as planned when announced by the Secretary of State on the 14 January.

We have signed £1 billion of guarantees with RBS and Lloyds for portfolios of £2 billion. The financing for businesses it releases has already started from 1 March as a result of the lending agreements based on the Asset Protection Scheme and WCS. We will be allocating from the £10 billion WCS, guarantees for trade credit insurance in response to the constraint to working capital arising from withdrawal of trade credit insurance. We will also be consulting on the viability of using some of these guarantees for letters of credit and other forms of export finance which are also possible areas of constraint for working capital.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 24 June 2009*

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Internally Displaced Persons: Sri Lanka

11. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in camps for internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [281802]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The formal military conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka and LTTE has now ended. The entire humanitarian caseload of 280,000 IDPs are now in camps under the control of the GoSL. The humanitarian response is moving from an emergency to a maintenance phase and basic living conditions are slowly improving. However, the lack of activity permitted such as freedom of movement remains of concern. Early return of the IDPs to their homes is vital.

### Palestinian West Bank

12. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest assessment is of the effectiveness of his Department's projects to support economic development in the Palestinian West Bank. [281803]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** In 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) funded two conferences aimed at encouraging investment in Palestine. UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is now working with various stakeholders on conference follow-up and will be supporting a scoping mission to the West Bank in October.

In partnership with the World Bank, we are also supporting the Palestinian private sector through the Facility for New Market Development (FNMD), which is currently helping 138 companies (115 in the West Bank) to develop new products and/or enter new markets. FNMD clients have already developed four new products and entered 13 new international markets.

### Faith Organisations

13. **Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of faith organisations to his Department's work with civil society in developing countries. [281804]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** During 2007-8, the Department for International Development channelled over £21 million through faith organisations to support their development efforts.

Faith organisations play a direct and vital role tackling poverty in poor countries, providing essential services and humanitarian assistance. They are able to undertake inward and outward advocacy, mobilising support and helping change attitudes and behaviour of members on issues such as HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and the role of women.

### Refugee Camps: Algeria

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department provides to people from western Sahara in refugee camps in Algeria. [281801]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development (DFID) supports Sahrawi refugees through its share of the budget of the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and its £19 million contributions to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), for its work with refugees across the world. In 2008, ECHO committed to provide €10 million to support Sahrawi refugees, while UNHCR spent $3.1 million in their support.

### Africa: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to discuss with his G8 counterparts their plans to meet their commitments on *(a)* assistance to Africa, made at the Tokyo G8 summit in July 2008 and *(b)* reducing the spread of infectious diseases. [281225]

**Mr. Thomas:** I discussed these and other matters with my G8 development Minister counterparts in Rome on 11-12 June 2009. This meeting reaffirmed G8 commitments on Official Development Assistance (ODA) and international assistance confirmed at the G8 summit last year in Japan. The G8, under the presidency of Italy, is continuing its focus on Africa. Global health, including reducing the spread of infectious diseases, also remains a priority concern.

With less than three weeks until the G8 summit in July, discussions on the G8 development agenda, including meeting our commitments, are frequent and ongoing and taking place at ministerial and official level. They will be further discussed during the G8 Sherpa preparatory meetings scheduled for next week. The UK Government remain determined to meet their commitments to Africa and to fighting infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and polio and working towards the goal of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. We are pressing our G8 colleagues to do likewise.

### Rural Areas

**Mr. Leigh:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many days on average his Department's professional staff worked in rural areas in the last 12 months period for which information is available. [281792]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has around 277 professional advisers posted in developing countries. The majority of our overseas staff are deliberately based in capitals, to facilitate our discussions with host governments, donors, and non-governmental organisations, including agricultural and rural sector reform. Staff regularly travel to rural areas, but we do not collate information on such visits.

### Sudan: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what development assistance his Department is providing to *(a)* the government of national unity in Sudan and *(b)* the government of Southern Sudan. [281200]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK Government do not transfer funds directly to the Government of National Unity (GNU) or the Government of South Sudan (GoSS). Most UK aid to Sudan is channelled through UN and World Bank managed multi-donor pooled funds, such as the Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) in support of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, to which we have contributed £74.6 million since 2005 and through non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Antisocial Behaviour

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of family intervention tenancies in tackling anti-social behaviour. [281839]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I have been asked to reply.

No assessment has been carried out.

### Crime

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 185W, on crime, how many incidents of street drinking were recorded in each police force area in 2007-08. [281837]

**Alan Johnson:** The Home Office does not centrally collect data on incidents of street drinking. You may wish to view the data on consumption within a Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) which is provided in the table.

Within a DPPO area it is not an offence to consume alcohol. The offence is committed when a person, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a requirement of a police constable to refrain from consuming alcohol (Section 12 (4) of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001).

The number of PNDs issued for failure to comply with a requirement by a constable within a Designated Public Place Order are as follows:

485 in 2004, 712 in 2005, 1,061 in 2006 and 1,544 in 2007.

Data for 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

*Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty, and issued with a level 2 fine[1] at all courts for offences relating to the Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 Para.5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12). Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 in England and Wales, 2003-07[2,3,4]*

| | | | | *Fine amount[5]* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Total fines* | *Fines up to £200* | *Fines over £200 and up to £500* |
| 2003 | 108 | 94 | 73 | 72 | — |
| 2004 | 122 | 96 | 78 | 78 | — |
| 2005 | 101 | 76 | 63 | 62 | 1 |
| 2006 | 101 | 73 | 59 | 59 | — |
| 2007 | 113 | 98 | 76 | 75 | 1 |

[1] A 'level 2' fine does not specify a minimum fine amount, only the statutory maximum for the given offence; therefore all fines in the above table could be classed as 'level 2' fines. There are a number of factors including the defendants' ability to pay that will affect the courts' decision to impose a fine and fine amounts should not solely be taken as an indication of the seriousness of the offence or offender.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 Para.5 (Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001 S.12). Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001 S12.
Contravene a community support officers' requirement not to consume liquor.
Penalty offence under S.1 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001—alcohol consumption in designated public places.

[5] Following quality assurance checks, one fine amount in 2003 has been removed. This amount was greater than the maximum permissible fine. Therefore the number of fines and the fine amount totals in 2003 will not match each other.

*Source:*
OCJR—E & A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

### DNA: Databases

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1767-8W, on genetics: databases, what proportion of DNA records of people *(a)* arrested but not charged for an offence, *(b)* arrested, charged but not convicted of an offence and *(c)* arrested, charged and convicted of an offence have resulted in matches with crime scene profiles. [270929]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** As the National DNA Database does not hold data on whether those with records on it have been charged or convicted, the information requested is not available.

### Entry Clearances

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications from *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Afghanistan have been rejected by the Abu Dhabi hub after being forwarded for clearance by the entry clearance officers in Islamabad (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) since 27 October 2008. [280128]

**Alan Johnson:** No visa applications were forwarded by entry clearance officers in Islamabad to the visa section in Abu Dhabi for assessment before 27 October 2008. Between 27 October 2008 and 31 May 2009, 18,036 of the applications that have been forwarded from Pakistan have been refused. These include applications from both Pakistani and Afghan nationals.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training is provided to *(a)* British and *(b)* locally engaged entry clearance officers in Pakistan and Abu Dhabi. [280132]

**Alan Johnson:** All entry clearance officers recruited for long-term postings undertake a mandatory three week training course from the central training team in the UK. In addition to the central training, newly recruited officers in both Pakistan and Abu Dhabi receive additional training and mentoring over a minimum three month basis from experienced officers and managers already at post. Locally engaged entry clearance officers remain on probation for this three month period. At the end of the three month period, officers are assessed against objective performance benchmarks to inform their future training and development needs.

### Entry Clearances: Afghanistan

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications for entry into the UK have been made in Afghanistan *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* since 27 October 2008. [280139]

**Alan Johnson:** There is no visa application centre in Afghanistan, nor has there been one in the past five years.

### Entry Clearances: Pakistan

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications have been checked for fraud by entry clearance officers in Islamabad *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* since 27 October 2008. [280129]

**Alan Johnson:** All visa applications have been checked for fraud in the last five years.

Prior to 27 October 2008, Entry Clearance Officers in Pakistan conducted passport forgery checks in all cases that had been approved for issue and document verification teams augmented this by checking supporting documents. Since 27 October 2008 the passport forgery check has been extended to all applications and supporting document verification takes place in over 80 per cent. of applications.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many entry clearance officers based in Islamabad are *(a)* locally engaged and *(b)* British nationals. [280130]

**Alan Johnson:** As of 31 May 2009 there are 13 UK-based entry clearance officers working in Islamabad, all of whom are British nationals. None are locally engaged.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications for entry into the UK have been made in Pakistan in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* since 27 October 2008. [280137]

**Alan Johnson:** The number of visa applications for entry to the UK that have been lodged in Pakistan since 1 January 2004 are as follows:

| | *Visa applications lodged in Pakistan* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 188,855 |
| 2005 | 168,019 |
| 2006 | 204,049 |
| 2007 | 175,966 |
| 2008 (1 January to 26 October) | 132,855 |
| 27 October 2008 to 31 May 2009 | 66,413 |

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

### Entry Clearances: United Arab Emirates

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many entry clearance officers based in Abu Dhabi are *(a)* locally engaged and *(b)* British nationals. [280131]

**Alan Johnson:** As of 31 May 2009, there are 34 entry clearance officers based in Abu Dhabi, including seasonal relief staff. There are 11 permanent UK-based entry clearance officers and 10 locally engaged entry clearance officers.

### Firearms: Crime

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 593W, on firearms: crime, how many firearms offences (excluding those involving air weapons) were recorded in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1998. [281881]

**Alan Johnson:** Available data relate to offences recorded in the period 1998-99 up to and including 2007-08, and are shown in the following table. Data for the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 by police force area were published in table 2.12 of "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007-08", an internet-only Home Office Statistical Bulletin available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0209.pdf

Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat.

The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Data for the years up to and including 2001-02 are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] by region and police force area: England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2007-08*

*Recorded crime*

*Number of offences*

| *Police force area* | *1998-99[2]* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02[2]* | *2002-03[2]* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *North East Region* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 20 | 26 | 16 | 24 | 18 | 45 | 37 | 41 | 19 | 15 |
| Durham | 13 | 40 | 18 | 19 | 16 | 15 | 21 | 18 | 14 | 45 |

*Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] by region and police force area: England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2007-08*

*Recorded crime*

| | *Number of offences* | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *1998-99[2]* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02[3]* | *2002-03[4]* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Northumbria | 76 | 107 | 99 | 86 | 103 | 169 | 182 | 137 | 111 | 78 |
| *North West Region* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cheshire | 32 | 22 | 44 | 50 | 31 | 44 | 61 | 71 | 41 | 59 |
| Cumbria | 11 | 5 | 13 | 9 | 13 | 11 | 26 | 18 | 21 | 18 |
| Greater Manchester | 647 | 875 | 935 | 1,361 | 1,240 | 1,275 | 1,268 | 1,200 | 993 | 1,160 |
| Lancashire | 50 | 78 | 59 | 103 | 66 | 58 | 259 | 372 | 364 | 349 |
| Merseyside | 286 | 240 | 278 | 299 | 318 | 483 | 491 | 485 | 410 | 398 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber Region* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Humberside | 76 | 61 | 69 | 63 | 68 | 68 | 174 | 108 | 117 | 58 |
| North Yorkshire | 11 | 8 | 9 | 28 | 18 | 23 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 17 |
| South Yorkshire | 75 | 114 | 129 | 170 | 153 | 127 | 185 | 301 | 211 | 202 |
| West Yorkshire | 193 | 191 | 335 | 332 | 333 | 269 | 318 | 355 | 319 | 332 |
| *East Midlands Region* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Derbyshire | 52 | 65 | 72 | 58 | 73 | 75 | 149 | 109 | 83 | 70 |
| Leicestershire | 98 | 71 | 58 | 74 | 174 | 141 | 123 | 89 | 109 | 134 |
| Lincolnshire | 16 | 19 | 24 | 22 | 37 | 26 | 90 | 72 | 45 | 41 |
| Northamptonshire | 54 | 48 | 40 | 55 | 107 | 123 | 113 | 128 | 159 | 164 |
| Nottinghamshire | 112 | 173 | 157 | 204 | 264 | 233 | 303 | 277 | 196 | 240 |
| *West Midlands Region* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staffordshire | 23 | 53 | 108 | 116 | 131 | 108 | 144 | 128 | 94 | 123 |
| Warwickshire | 20 | 14 | 39 | 53 | 62 | 102 | 73 | 80 | 90 | 107 |
| West Mercia | 38 | 36 | 41 | 54 | 48 | 62 | 151 | 115 | 58 | 124 |
| West Midlands | 407 | 664 | 817 | 1,288 | 1,101 | 1,138 | 959 | 946 | 979 | 974 |
| *East of England Region* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 46 | 56 | 48 | 82 | 86 | 89 | 94 | 103 | 86 | 83 |
| Cambridgeshire | 35 | 43 | 31 | 49 | 57 | 34 | 50 | 34 | 24 | 30 |
| Essex | 47 | 61 | 77 | 98 | 148 | 145 | 193 | 280 | 255 | 260 |
| Hertfordshire | 30 | 36 | 36 | 69 | 139 | 138 | 139 | 114 | 89 | 112 |
| Norfolk | 34 | 24 | 20 | 26 | 36 | 33 | 23 | 29 | 34 | 43 |
| Suffolk | 15 | 18 | 22 | 15 | 28 | 45 | 59 | 58 | 42 | 38 |
| London Region[5] | 2,034 | 2,945 | 3,036 | 4,199 | 4,202 | 3,891 | 3,697 | 3,884 | 3,331 | 3,399 |
| *South East Region* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hampshire | 38 | 52 | 49 | 58 | 97 | 130 | 148 | 85 | 122 | 100 |
| Kent | 76 | 109 | 108 | 60 | 64 | 65 | 100 | 142 | 92 | 82 |
| Surrey | 35 | 42 | 52 | 40 | 34 | 88 | 63 | 87 | 60 | 70 |
| Sussex | 115 | 119 | 110 | 155 | 136 | 82 | 67 | 85 | 84 | 69 |
| Thames Valley | 96 | 107 | 198 | 267 | 362 | 421 | 437 | 401 | 332 | 322 |
| *South West Region* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Avon and Somerset | 71 | 103 | 100 | 131 | 119 | 123 | 196 | 167 | 138 | 116 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 75 | 81 | 64 | 52 | 36 | 84 | 189 | 174 | 132 | 111 |
| Dorset | 11 | 12 | 14 | 34 | 17 | 45 | 49 | 27 | 28 | 21 |
| Gloucestershire | 22 | 21 | 23 | 89 | 92 | 108 | 87 | 77 | 65 | 43 |
| Wiltshire | 19 | 10 | 13 | 26 | 60 | 53 | 49 | 43 | 69 | 49 |
| *Wales* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dyfed-Powys | 16 | 13 | 26 | 26 | 17 | 37 | 40 | 21 | 17 | 25 |
| Gwent | 26 | 19 | 11 | 18 | 52 | 74 | 85 | 53 | 33 | 47 |
| North Wales | 26 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 18 | 11 | 60 | 88 | 98 | 53 |
| South Wales | 31 | 52 | 67 | 56 | 74 | 47 | 104 | 71 | 67 | 84 |

*Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] by region and police force area: England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2007-08*

*Recorded crime*

| | *Number of offences* | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *1998-99[2]* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02[3]* | *2002-03[4]* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| England and Wales | 5,209 | 6,843 | 7,471 | 10,024 | 10,248 | 10,338 | 11,069 | 11,088 | 9,645 | 9,865 |
| England and Wales (excluding London region) | 3,175 | 3,898 | 4,435 | 5,825 | 6,046 | 6,447 | 7,372 | 7,204 | 6,314 | 6,466 |

[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.
[2] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.
[3] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
[4] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002, which may have resulted in inflated figures for some crime categories. Figures before and after this date are not directly comparable.
[5] City of London and Metropolitan police force areas.

## Human Trafficking

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1087-88W, on human trafficking, how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions there were for human trafficking offences in each police force area in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [277243]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It is not possible to break down the arrest and convictions for each of the last five years.

Figures from the UKHTC indicate that since the inception of the dedicated legislation, there have been a total of 568 arrests for human trafficking offences which have resulted in a total of 114 convictions. The figures for the number of arrests which are set out by force area below include 100 cases on which the outcome is not yet known.

| | *Arrests* | *Convictions* |
|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 0 | 0 |
| Bedfordshire | 7 | 1 |
| Cambridgeshire | 23 | 0 |
| Cheshire | 2 | 1 |
| Cleveland | 3 | 0 |
| Cumbria | 1 | 0 |
| Derbyshire | 11 | 0 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 8 | 3 |
| Dorset | 3 | 1 |
| Durham | 1 | 1 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 2 | 0 |
| Essex | 11 | 0 |
| Gloucestershire | 7 | 0 |
| Greater Manchester | 63 | 8 |
| Gwent | 2 | 0 |
| Hampshire | 14 | 1 |
| Hertfordshire | 6 | 0 |
| Humberside | 1 | 0 |
| Kent | 7 | 4 |
| Lancashire | 18 | 6 |
| Leicestershire | 15 | 3 |
| Lincolnshire | 2 | 0 |
| Metropolitan | 129 | 43 |
| City of London | 0 | 0 |
| Merseyside | 0 | 0 |
| Norfolk | 5 | 0 |
| Northamptonshire | 11 | 0 |
| Northumbria | 7 | 1 |
| North Wales | 3 | 0 |
| North Yorkshire | 8 | 0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 17 | 0 |
| South Wales | 20 | 6 |
| South Yorkshire | 22 | 10 |
| Staffordshire | 4 | 0 |
| Suffolk | 9 | 0 |
| Surrey | 8 | 3 |
| Sussex | 27 | 0 |
| Thames Valley | 9 | 4 |
| Warwickshire | 5 | 5 |
| West Mercia | 9 | 3 |
| West Midlands | 44 | 5 |
| West Yorkshire | 14 | 5 |
| Wiltshire | 6 | 0 |
| BTP | 4 | 0 |

## Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for human trafficking offences relating to labour exploitation under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants EEC) Act 2004. [276566]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Figures provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre indicate as of 24 May there have been 16 prosecutions and seven convictions for trafficking for the purposes of forced labour.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for human trafficking offences relating to sexual exploitation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. [276567]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Figures from the Crown Prosecution Service indicate a total of 267 people prosecuted under sections 57-59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

In this total there have been 106 convictions plus three for conspiracy to traffick which have arisen from sexual exploitation cases.

### Parenting Contracts

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parenting contracts have been issued under section 19 and 25 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [280261]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department collects and publishes data on the use by local authorities in England of education-related parenting contracts for poor behaviour and attendance at school. Data is collected directly from local authorities. Since data collection began in September 2004 to 31 August 2008, 55,107 parenting contracts for attendance have been issued to parents and 7,752 contracts have been issued for behaviour. Information on the number of parenting contracts issued to parents in each local authority can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/behaviourandattendance/about/data.cfm

Data in relation to parenting contracts issued to parents following their child's criminal conduct or antisocial behaviour is collected and published by the Home Office for the voluntary Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Survey. It can be found at:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/asbos/asbos02b.xls

Data is available by region only.

### Police: Essex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Chief Constable of Essex Police since January 2008 on mechanisms to ensure that information held by them is *(a)* accurate and *(b)* secure; and if he will make a statement. [275586]

**Mr. Hanson:** These issues are a matter for the police authority in Essex, however individual chief police officers are responsible for the data held, managed and used by their respective forces. All chief officers in England and Wales are required to have regard for the statutory code of practice for the Management of Police Information, introduced in 2005, which requires forces to adopt practices for the management of information that ensure such information is used effectively for police purposes and in compliance with the law.

In addition, the Association of Chief Police Officers has a community security policy (CSP) which all forces are required to be compliant with by March 2010. This policy covers a set of wide ranging controls to ensure data is kept secure. Reporting on compliance with the CSP is managed through the Police Information Assurance Board (PIAB) and supported by the National Policing Improvement Agency.

## TREASURY

### Banks: Regulation

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from the British Bankers' Association on the regulatory reforms proposed by the Financial Services Authority on capital requirements for banks. [281582]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Treasury Ministers and officials meet representatives of the British Bankers' Association to discuss a wide range of issues as need arises and receive written representations on a wide variety of issues. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings or receive correspondence.

### Capital Gains Tax

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue forgone by the Exchequer as a result of alterations to the designation of an individual's main home to avoid payment of capital gains tax in the last tax year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [281821]

**Mr. Timms:** It is not possible to provide an estimate with the information available.

### Child Benefit

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on child benefit in 2008-09; what proportion of that was paid to families with gross incomes of over *(a)* £25,000, *(b)* £40,000, *(c)* £60,000 and (d) £100,000 per year; and if he will make a statement. [281648]

**Mr. Timms:** The cost of child benefit in 2008-09 was £11,265 million.

Estimates of the proportion of expenditure allocated to families with gross incomes of over *(a)* £25,000, *(b)* £40,000 and *(c)* £60,000 per year are provided in the following table.

*Proportion of 2008-09 Child Benefit expenditure by income bands*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| *Families with gross incomes over:* | |
| *(a)* £25,000 per year | 55 |
| *(b)* £40,000 per year | 34 |
| *(c)* £60,000 per year | 16 |

*Note:*
The numbers in this table are not mutually exclusive

The Family Resources Survey, on which these estimates are based, provides unreliable estimates for households with high incomes. An accurate estimate for *(d)* could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Corporation Tax: Business

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of a reduction of one per cent. in the rate of corporation tax for *(a)* small and *(b)* large firms in the present tax year. [281903]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer the hon. Member to Table 5 of the 2008 pre-Budget report: Tax ready reckoner and reliefs, which provides estimates of the effects of illustrative tax changes, and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_taxreadyreckoner_287.pdf

These figures exclude the behavioural impact of a reduction in the small company's rate, which is likely to lead to an increase in tax motivated incorporations.

### Departmental Manpower

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Prime Minister's *(a)* Strategy Unit and *(b)* Delivery Unit is conducting work related to the responsibilities of the Department of Energy and Climate Change. [266630]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Strategy Unit are not conducting any work related to the responsibilities of DECC. However, the Strategy Unit are examining questions relating to energy as part of a broader piece of work on the European Neighbourhood Policy.

PMDU have recently worked with DECC on delivery of home insulation commitments and on assessing progress of PSA 27 for which DECC are the lead Department.

### Departmental Work Experience

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281523]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** No graduate internships have been awarded in the last six months. However, there have been a number of undergraduate placements arranged through various Government schemes this year.

### Equitable Life Assurance Society

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress has been made in establishing the ex-gratia payments scheme for Equitable Life policyholders; what steps will be taken in relation to the scheme in the next two months; and if he will make a statement. [281831]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry** *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* Sir John Chadwick has been appointed by the Government to review available information and consider a number of issues in relation to determining relative losses suffered by Equitable Life policyholders, and their impact. Sir John's work will inform the establishment of an ex-gratia payments scheme.

Last week Sir John issued a document that set out his proposed approach and issues to be addressed in his work, alongside announcing his formal appointment of actuarial support and the launch of his website. The document gives interested parties an opportunity to comment on Sir John's proposed approach and written comments are invited to be sent to Sir John's office by 17 July 2009.

Sir John expects to make an interim report to Government later this summer, containing a definitive statement of his approach for determining relative losses and a definitive list of the specific issues he will address.

It is intended that a statement will be made to the House updating it on Sir John's work and the establishment of the payments scheme before it rises on 21 July 2009.

### Government Departments: Standards

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Departments have had funding withheld since 1998 as a result of not meeting public service agreement targets; and how much funding was withheld in each case. [266584]

**Mr. Byrne:** Since their introduction in the 1998 comprehensive spending review (CSR), public service agreements (PSAs) have played a vital role in galvanising public service delivery and driving major improvements in outcomes. Department's performance in the previous spending review period is always taken into consideration in any new spending review. The Prime Minister's delivery unit was established in 2001, and while delivery of PSAs is ultimately the responsibility of individual Departments PMDU and HM Treasury work closely to support Departments to ensure delivery against these challenging commitments. Currently 70 per cent. of SR02 PSAs are assessed as met, met-ongoing or partly met, while 56 per cent. of SR04 PSAs are assessed as met, ahead or on course.

### Kaupthing Bank: Compensation

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to compensate people who have sustained financial losses owing to the failure of Kaupthing Bank. [278775]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry** *[holding answer 9 June 2009]:* On 8 October 2008, the FSA concluded that Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd. no longer met threshold conditions and was in default for the purposes of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). The Treasury, using an order under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, transferred KSF's deposit book of "Kaupthing Edge" accounts to ING Direct. The Government also committed to paying out in full FSCS eligible depositors whose accounts were not transferred.

The remainder of KSF's business was subsequently placed into administration following due legal process. The administrators are responsible for managing the remainder of KSF's business and loan book to maximise recovery for creditors. The administrators will continue to deal with the assets in compliance with insolvency law and the provisions of the transfer order (including those provisions of the transfer order which confer certain limited functions on the Treasury in relation to the assets of KSF). Those depositors that are ineligible for FSCS compensation will be creditors of the bank in the normal way and paid out in accordance with UK insolvency procedures.

Deposits with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) (KSF IoM) will be subject to the Isle of Man deposit compensation scheme. This scheme is administered by the Isle of Man authorities.

### National Insurance Contributions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of a reduction of one per cent. in the rate of employers' national insurance contributions in the present tax year. [281904]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer the hon. Member to Table 5 of the 2008 pre-Budget report: Tax ready reckoner and reliefs, which provides estimates of the effects of illustrative tax changes, and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_taxreadyreckoner_287.pdf

These figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate his Department has made of total annually managed expenditure in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13 and *(d)* 2013-14; [281884]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the debt interest the Government will pay in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13 and *(d)* 2013-14. [281885]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* Projections for debt interest and annually managed expenditure (AME) for 2010-11 are shown in table C9 of the Budget 2009 document. Projections for total public sector current expenditure and public sector net investment to 2013-14 are shown in table C4 of the same document.

Total AME programmes to 2010-11 have been forecast consistent with the economic assumptions and policy decisions set out in Budget 2009.

### Royal Bank of Scotland: Pay

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Chairman and Chief Executive of UK Financial Investments in respect of bonuses planned to be awarded to senior bankers at Royal Bank of Scotland. [278383]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI) has been set up to manage the Government's investments in financial institutions on a commercial basis and at arm's length. As part of this work UKFI is monitoring the non-lending conditions, including remuneration, attached to recapitalisation and participation in the Asset Protection Scheme for the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS). HM Treasury has regular discussions with UK Financial Investments and regularly monitors UKFI's performance against its objectives.

UKFI has worked to ensure management incentivisation based on long-term, sustainable performance and no rewards for failure, in order to protect the interest of the taxpayer as a shareholder.

RBS has announced that there will be no bonuses or pay increases made to staff associated with the major losses suffered in 2008 and that board executive directors will receive no bonus for 2008 performance and no pay increase in 2009. No discretionary cash bonuses will be paid in 2009 for performance in 2008, and only legally binding guaranteed bonuses will be paid.

### Social Security Benefits: Families

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families have received *(a)* child trust fund payments, *(b)* child tax credit, *(c)* childcare tax credit and *(d)* working tax credit in each parliamentary constituency in Lancashire in the latest period for which figures are available. [282059]

**Mr. Timms:** Estimates of the number of child trust fund accounts opened for children born on or before 5 April 2007, in each parliamentary constituency, are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

Latest estimates of the average number of families benefiting from tax credits, as well as the average number of in-work families benefiting from the child care element in each Government office region, local authority and parliamentary constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised annual awards. Geographical analyses 2006-07". This publication is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit. Information is not yet available for 2007-08 at parliamentary constituency level. Further information can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tc-delay-07-08.htm

Latest estimates of the number of families who were claiming child benefit in the areas requested are provided in the HMRC annual publication "Child Benefit geographical statistics. August 2006", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

Figures for August 2007 are not yet available.

### Taxation: Telecommunications

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what rate per metre per year British Telecom is required to pay in respect of fibre tax. [281144]

**Mr. Timms:** British Telecom is assessed for business rates in the Central rating lists for England and Wales. Their rateable values are shown in the Central rating lists which are available on the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

It is not possible to disaggregate how much of the rateable value is attributable to fibre.

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue has been raised from fibre tax in each year since its inception; and what the cost to the Valuation Office Agency of collecting the revenue in each such year was. [281145]

**Ian Pearson:** Fibre optic telecommunication networks are assessed for business rates, the majority, on local billing authority rating lists with a small number on the Central Lists for England and Wales. We do not hold information on the amount of rates collected by local authorities from fibre optic cable networks. The Valuation Office Agency does not collect business rates.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether value added tax will be levied on the proposed supplement to be paid on all fixed copper lines referred to in the Digital Britain White Paper. [282035]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government intend to consult on the proposal for a general supplement on all fixed copper lines for a Next Generation Fund by September. The details of the Government's proposals will be set out in that consultation.

### VAT: Training

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from *(a)* commercial and *(b)* not-for-profit training providers on the applicability of value added tax to fees paid in respect of chef training; and if he will make a statement. [281778]

**Mr. Timms:** Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

The VAT treatment of chef training is governed by the rules relating to the exemption from VAT for education. There are currently two categories of exemption: educational training supplied by an 'eligible body' and private tuition supplied by an individual (acting independently of an employer) in a subject ordinarily taught in a school or a university.

The list of eligible bodies was drawn up by the previous Government in 1994 to reflect the scope of the exemption laid down in the EU Directive, which is for supplies by public bodies and those with similar aims.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people required to make repayments as a result of overpayments of their tax credits in *(a)* Great Britain, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* Leeds North West in the last 12 months. [282080]

**Mr. Timms:** Information on the number of families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments at UK level can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publications, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments", for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Similar Information at country, regional, local authority and constituency level, can be found in the HMRC publications, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics; Finalised Annual Awards; Supplement on Payments and Geographical Analysis" for the years 2003-04 to 2006-07 at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Geographical information for 2007-08 is not yet available.

More details can be found at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tc-delav-07-08.htm

### Working Tax Credit

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans next to review the number of hours of work a week which determines eligibility to receive working tax credit payments. [281587]

**Mr. Timms:** Parents and people with a disability are eligible for Working Tax Credit if they work at least 16 hours per week, while other people, who face less of a barrier to work, are eligible if they work 30 hours per week. The working tax credit has helped improve work incentives for people on low incomes to ensure that work pays. The Government believe it is important to protect these achievements, and while it keeps all aspects of tax credits under review, it currently has no plans to change the hours rules.

However, to protect people affected by the economic downturn, the Government announced in the Budget that from 31 July anyone who ceases to be eligible for Working Tax Credit because of a fall in working hours will continue to receive support for four weeks. This support, worth up to £68 per week for a couple without children and £32 per week for a single person, will help households as they adjust to their new work situation.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 266584, tabled on 25 March 2009, on public service agreement targets. [282338]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have replied to the hon. Member.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel are *(a)* embedded with Pakistani military units and *(b)* based in Pakistan to co-ordinate military operations in support of UK military operations in Regional Command South. [279963]

**Bill Rammell:** There are currently no UK military personnel embedded with Pakistani military units. As part of normal military relations, UK non-embedded military staff based at the British high commission in Islamabad provide a liaison and co-ordination function between the Pakistani military and UK and NATO operations in Afghanistan.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fatalities of civilian contractors supplying British forces in Afghanistan there have been in each year since 2001. [280192]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Breed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the number of casualties sustained by forces from each NATO member state participating in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan in each of the last three years. [281197]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence holds statistics on the number of casualties suffered by UK forces in Afghanistan since 2001, which are published on the Ministry of Defence website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

We do not comment on the casualties suffered by other nations, which are matters for the countries concerned.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the UK has commanded Regional Command South in Afghanistan since 2003; and how many UK troops were part of that command on each occasion. [281443]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The UK has commanded Regional Command (South) once, between May 2007 and February 2008, since it was established in 2006. In February 2007 the endorsed force level for British troops in Afghanistan was 7,700.

### Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers were stationed in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [281333]

**Bill Rammell:** The Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation produce these figures quarterly in Tri-Service Publication 10—"UK Regular Forces Stationed Location" report, which is available on the DASA website at the following address:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=67&pubType=0&thiscontent=1800&date=2009-05-29

### Defence

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to conduct its next strategic defence review. [281442]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** No date has been set for a defence review.

### Departmental Food

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281946]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food procured by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased.

Although it is too early to show a trend, the report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing. The proportion of domestically produced food procured by MOD has gone up from 43 per cent. in 2006-07 to 59 per cent. in 2007-08. A third report is expected to be published at the end of 2009.

### Employment Tribunals Service

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277411]

**Bill Rammell:** The number of employment related matters involving the Ministry of Defence in the last three financial years are provided in the following table.

| *Financial year* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Scotland | 13 | 14 | 3 |
| Northern Ireland | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| England and Wales | 99 | 139 | 111 |

The figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland represent the total number of cases brought against the MOD before employment tribunals or other courts in the past three financial years. The case categories for Scotland and Northern Ireland are set out in the following table.

In contrast the figures for England and Wales represent the number of cases opened by the Treasury Solicitors on behalf of the MOD in England and Wales in the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09. Not all of the cases opened by the Treasury Solicitors have resulted in proceedings being started in an employment tribunal or other courts. To provide information on the number of cases brought to an employment tribunal in England and Wales could have been provided only at disproportionate cost. For the cases opened by Treasury Solicitors the case categories are provided as follows.

*England and Wales*

| *Case category* | *Number of cases* |
|---|---|
| Age discrimination | 21 |
| Disability discrimination | 48 |
| Equal pay | 21 |
| Race discrimination | 20 |
| Religious discrimination | 5 |
| Sex/gender discrimination | 49 |
| Unfair/constructive dismissal | 99 |
| Breach of contract | 15 |
| Working time | 4 |
| Wages claim/unlawful deduction | 12 |
| Holiday/maternity pay claim | 2 |
| Redundancy | 3 |
| Transfer of undertakings | 9 |
| Other | 41 |

In Scotland a total of 30 cases were brought in the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09. 25 cases were brought to an employment tribunal, four other cases were brought in other courts or other specialist tribunals and one case was transferred to be dealt with in England and Wales. Not all of the cases brought to a tribunal or court went through the full tribunal or court procedure; several were settled or withdrawn. The case categories are set out as follows.

*Scotland*

| *Case category* | *Number of cases* |
|---|---|
| Age discrimination | 2 |
| Disability discrimination | 3 |
| Equal pay | 1 |
| Sex/gender discrimination | 2 |
| Breach of contract | 4 |
| Unfair/constructive dismissal | 6 |
| Wages claim/unlawful deductions | 6 |
| Reserve forces appeals tribunal | 2 |
| Other | 2 |
| Cases involving a combination of categories | 2 |

In Northern Ireland a total of 17 cases were brought to an industrial tribunal or the Fair Employment Tribunal in the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09. Not all of these cases would have gone through the full tribunal procedure; several were settled or withdrawn, some remain outstanding and one case was transferred to the Treasury Solicitors. The case categories are set out as follows.

*Northern Ireland*

| *Case category* | *Number of cases* |
|---|---|
| Age discrimination | 2 |
| Disability discrimination | 2 |
| Equal pay | [1]4 |
| Race discrimination | 3 |
| Religious discrimination | 2 |
| Sex/gender discrimination | 1 |
| Unfair/constructive dismissal | 3 |

[1] This includes one part time equal pay claim which has been transferred from the Crown Solicitors Office to the Treasury Solicitors and which covers a total of 1,053 claimants.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* operational control, *(b)* administrative control, *(c)* technical control, *(d)* tactical control and *(e)* other command relationship between UK and non-UK forces operating in Iraq is at the lowest unit level for which data is available. [279967]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Within Baghdad, the Senior British Military Representative and Deputy Commanding General Multi-National Forces-Iraq is under operational command of the UK's Chief of Joint Operations, working within the US command chain to fulfil the duties implicit in his coalition appointment. The Senior British Military Representative-Iraq has operational control of all UK staff officers embedded in the Multi-National Force-Iraq structure and delegate's tactical command of these individuals as appropriate.

A number of UK forces in Baghdad are assigned to the NATO Training Mission -Iraq, where fully embedded UK staff officers are under operational command of NATO and a UK infantry platoon providing force protection at the Iraqi Military Academy is under the operational control of the Senior British Military Representative Iraq and tactical command of NATO. All UK staff assigned to the NATO Training Mission are under administrative control of NATO for routine life support.

Within southern Iraq the UK currently has command of Coalition Task Force Iraqi Maritime which overseas the protection of the Iraqi offshore oil platforms and maintenance of the security of Iraqi Territorial Waters.

UK forces who remain on the Contingency Operating Base in Basra are under the operational control of the UK's Joint Force Logistics Commander, for the purposes of withdrawal. While no formal command and control relationships exist between these individuals and hosting US Forces, the US are responsible for their security and life support.

The Prime Minister set out our future plans for Iraq in the House on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 22. Permissions for UK operational and training activities in Iraq expired on 31 May and we have paused in our support to the Iraqi military.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on USA: military alliances, on what date and at which location the June 2009 Stocktake meeting between the Government and the US administration under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement is scheduled to take place; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the programme for the meeting. [280421]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The 33rd meeting of the UK/US Stocktake was held in the Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London on Tuesday 9 June. The programme comprised discussions on nuclear threat reduction, warhead, and platform issues, together with a consideration of potential future exchanges.

I am withholding a copy of the programme for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

### Nuclear Weapons: Public Opinion

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's most recent opinion poll data are on public opinion on the retention of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent. [281402]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* Questions on the retention of the UK's nuclear deterrent were included in the public poll on perceptions of the Ministry of Defence and UK armed forces conducted in December 2003.

The following figures were collated for the public opinion poll on whether the UK should keep its nuclear weapons:

8 per cent. strongly agreed

35 per cent. tended to agree

25 per cent. tended to disagree

9 per cent. strongly disagreed

### Nuclear Weapons: Transport

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role of the Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines is in the protection of nuclear weapons road convoys. [280422]

**Bill Rammell:** The Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines element of the nuclear weapon convoy security escort provides specific capabilities to counter a no-notice terrorist attack.

## TRANSPORT

### A303

**Robert Key:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when an inspection was last carried out of the condition of the carriageway on the A303 at its junction with the A345 at Countess Roundabout, Wiltshire; what reports he has received on levels of road safety at this junction; and if he will make a statement. [280725]

**Chris Mole:** The Highways Agency carries out safety inspections every 28 days on trunk roads and the last one at this location was on 2 June 2009. No safety critical defects were identified in this inspection.

We are aware of minor defects to the road surface that do not pose an immediate danger to the travelling public, and overnight repairs are planned for the week commencing 22 June 2009 to deal with the most significant of these.

In a five year period the Countess Roundabout has had a recorded 32 accidents across all arms of the roundabout and the circulatory carriageway. None of the accidents had a poor or defective road surface listed as a contributing factor.

Annual Safety Statements concerning road safety are compiled by the Highways Agency across the entire trunk road network including Countess Roundabout. The most recent statement for this location was issued in October 2008.

### Airports

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which parliamentary constituencies have airports wholly or partly within their boundaries. [281656]

**Paul Clark:** "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper, which set out the strategic framework for the development of airport capacity in the United Kingdom to 2030, identified 30 major airports in the UK. The following table lists, in the right hand column, the major airports and in the left hand column the constituency or constituencies within which each airport is situated:

| *Constituency* | *Airport* |
|---|---|
| *England* | |
| Blackpool, South<br>Fylde | Blackpool International |
| Brigg and Goole Cleethorpes | Humberside International |
| Christchurch | Bournemouth International |
| Crawley | London Gatwick |
| Don Valley | Robin Hood Doncaster Sheffield |
| East Ham<br>Poplar and Canning Town | London City |
| Eastleigh | Southampton |
| Southampton, Itchen | |
| Hayes and Harlington | London Heathrow |
| Leeds, North-West<br>Pudsey | Leeds Bradford International |
| Liverpool, Garston | Liverpool John Lennon |
| Luton, South | London Luton |
| Meriden | Birmingham International |
| Mid Norfolk<br>Norwich, North | Norwich International |
| Newcastle upon Tyne, North | Newcastle International |
| North Cornwall | Newquay, Cornwall |
| North West Leicestershire | East Midlands |
| Plymouth, Devonport | Plymouth City |
| Saffron Walden | London Stansted |
| Sedgefield<br>Stockton, South | Durham Tees Valley |
| Tatton<br>Wythenshawe and Sale, East | Manchester |
| Tiverton and Honiton | Exeter |
| Woodspring | Bristol International |
| *Northern Ireland* | |
| Belfast, East | Belfast City |
| South Antrim | Belfast International |
| *Scotland* | |
| Central Ayrshire | Glasgow Prestwick |
| Edinburgh, West | Edinburgh |
| Gordon | Aberdeen |
| Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey | Inverness |
| Paisley and Renfrewshire, North | Glasgow |
| *Wales* | |
| Vale of Glamorgan | Cardiff International |

### Aviation: Fees and Charges

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations his Department has received on *(a)* restrictions imposed and *(b)* charges levied by airlines on passengers who require supplementary oxygen when travelling by air. [281822]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport has received some 130 letters about the carriage of oxygen. European Regulation 1107/2006 on the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when travelling by air does not impose specific obligations on airlines to carry or provide oxygen in the cabin. Where air carriers do supply medical oxygen to passengers on request, it is possible to make a charge for this service. However, many airlines including British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, EasyJet and Flybe allow passengers to use their own oxygen and their own Portable Oxygen Concentrator free of charge. It is important that passengers know airlines' charging policies before choosing which carrier to fly with.

### Aviation: Noise

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what requirements there are on light aircraft taking off from or landing at airports located close to housing developments to have silencers fitted; and if he will make a statement; [281654]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Civil Aviation Authority on its policy on the fitting of silencers to light aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [281655]

**Paul Clark:** Aerodromes are expected to consider the environmental impact of their operations and apply measures designed to minimise the noise impact on the local population. To assist aerodromes in this task, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has published best practice guidance on noise considerations at general aviation aerodromes which is available on their website. This guidance also serves to provide members of the public with an explanation of the constraints and factors that must be considered by aerodrome operators when deciding on the noise mitigation measures that could be adopted.

In the UK, aircraft are required to comply with the Aircraft Noise standards recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and published in annex 16 to the Chicago Convention (annex 16, volume 1). The certification requirements place a maximum decibel limit on the noise level that an aircraft may produce, and are specific to the aircraft type concerned. The requirements do not specify how those noise limits should be met, e.g. through the use of silencers.

The Department for Transport has not had any recent discussions with the CAA about the fitting of silencers to light aircraft. The effective management of aircraft noise includes a number of elements, including action to address noise at source. While it is possible to fit silencers to some light aircraft, this can have an effect on engine power and consequently aircraft performance. The CAA must take these factors into account on a case by case basis when considering whether the installation of silencers on different types of light aircraft.

### Birmingham Airport: Air Pollution

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research his Department has commissioned on levels of noise pollution in the area surrounding Birmingham airport in the last three years. [282046]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport only produces noise contours for the three London noise designated airports—Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. Elsewhere the monitoring of aircraft noise falls to the local airport operator.

However in line with the EU Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EU (transposed by the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations (2006)), Birmingham International Airport—in common with other airports with 50,000 movements and above—is required to commence formal consultation on a Noise Action Plan by 1 July. These draft plans, which have been prepared in response to noise mapping contours produced in 2007, are required to be developed in consultation with the local community.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many pensioners in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire received concessionary bus passes in the latest period for which figures are available. [282083]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so do not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

Chorley and Lancashire are part of the NoWcard scheme. The last information held by the Department is that; as of April 2008 the NoWcard scheme had received 280,200 applications from older and disabled people.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2009, *Official Report,* column 1489W, on departmental conditions of employment, what timetable he has set for the consideration of the standardisation of processes in areas such as travel and subsistence claims and annual performance. [281159]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport is considering standardisation of human resource processes and detailed work on initial key areas, such as developing e-recruitment, is under way.

The specific issues identified by the National Audit Office as needing addressing in the medium-term, including the approach to travel and subsistence claims and annual performance appraisals, are not yet planned in detail. Specific timetables to address these have not yet been scheduled.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281085]

**Chris Mole:** Data on breaches of information security for the last five years for the Department for Transport and its agencies is not held centrally.

The Department and its agencies report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the Information Commissioner's Office. Information on personal data security breaches are published on an annual basis in the department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

### Departmental Electricity

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280965]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport reports its electricity derived from renewable sources figures through the annual Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report. The figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

*Renewable electricity*

| | *Renewable Electricity k Wh* | *Percentage of total electricity* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 32,203,331 | 62.5 |
| 2007-08 | 29,713,276 | 55.3 |

The figures have fallen due to an increased use of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and the over estimation of consumption in 2006-07, but the Department for Transport's target to use electricity of which more than 10 per cent. has been derived from renewable sources has been exceeded.

### Departmental Food

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281938]

**Chris Mole:** A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased and shows that the proportion of domestically produced food procured by the Department for Transport in 2007-08 was 71 per cent.

A third report is expected to be published at the end of 2009.

### Departmental Plants

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on *(a)* pot plants and *(b)* cut flowers in 2008-09. [280019]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport spent £87,401 on pot plants and £3,419 on cut flowers in 2008-09. This excludes spend incurred at the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency as the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Spend on pot plants includes provision, maintenance and replacement of plants.

All expenditure was incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Disability Discrimination Act

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of progress towards compliance with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act in respect of accessibility by persons with disabilities *(a)* to buses by 2017 and *(b)* to rail vehicles by 2020; and if he will make a statement. [281824]

**Mr. Khan:** The Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2000 require all buses and coaches both old and new to comply with the provisions of Disability Discrimination Act 1995, from 2015 through to 2017 for buses, and from 2020 for coaches. Buses used on local services have been steadily becoming more accessible. In 2008 (the latest statistics available), around 62 per cent. of the bus fleet meet low floor and accessibility requirements.

Almost 5000 rail vehicles (including 42 per cent. of the national train fleet) are in service, having been built to modern access standards. Furthermore, almost all older rail vehicles have featured increased accessibility as they have undergone refurbishment.

### Exhaust Emissions: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department allocated for the development of transportation with *(a)* low and *(b)* no carbon dioxide emissions in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each of the last five years. [281634]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport allocates integrated transport block funding to local transport authorities for capital investment in transport. Funding provided by the Department to local authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities, such as the development of low-carbon transportation. The following table shows funding support the Department provided for Essex from 2004-05 to 2008-09.

*Integrated Transport Funding*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 12.932 |
| 2007-08 | 12.518 |
| 2006-07 | 13.327 |

*Integrated Transport Funding*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 13.800 |
| 2004-05 | 14.250 |

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant.

The Department has funded sustainable travel projects such as the 'Walking to School Initiative Grant scheme'—in 2008-09 Essex schools received £20,500. It has provided Essex county council with £10,000 for cycle training grants in 2008-09. The Department has also made the following funding available to Essex county council in the last five years for Rural Bus Subsidy and cycling 'Links to School':

| | | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | *Rural Bus Subsidy* | *Links to School* |
| 2008-09 | 1.893 | 0.195 |
| 2007-08 | 1.847 | 0.076 |
| 2006-07 | 1.804 | 0.277 |
| 2005-06 | 1.761 | 0.235 |
| 2004-05 | 1.694 | — |

Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) has been reformed to link better with Government objectives, particularly on climate change. The previous link between BSOG and fuel duty has now been broken and only those bus operators who achieve a 6 per cent. improvement in their fuel efficiency compared with the previous one or two years will receive an increase of 3 per cent. in their BSOG from April 2010. In addition, operators will receive an additional 6p per kilometre on routes operated by low carbon emission buses from 1 April 2009.

Detailed policies and proposals for reducing carbon dioxide emissions will be published in the Department's Carbon Reduction Strategy this summer.

### Fishing Vessels

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to conclude its analysis of stability criteria for small fishing vessels; and if he will make a statement. [281857]

**Paul Clark:** Further to my answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 172W, concerning the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) research into the stability criteria for small fishing vessels; the MCA plan to meet with research consultants during July to review their conclusions before the fishing industry Fishing Vessel Stability Working Group meets in August 2009. Following the working group meeting they plan to provide simple and practical guidance about stability of small fishing boats.

### Humber Bridge: Tolls

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to receive the report of the public inquiry on the Humber Bridge toll. [281604]

**Mr. Khan:** We have now received and are considering the Inspector's report following the public inquiry on the Humber Bridge Board's toll review application. A decision will be made as soon as possible.

### Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Pay

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in each of the last five years. [281628]

**Paul Clark:** The information is not available in the format requested; however the amounts paid in bonuses by grade in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

| | | | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *Total 2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| AA (Admin) | 5,536 | 5,902 | 5,829 | 6,471 | 6,187 |
| AA (Operational) | 40,399 | 43,070 | 42,540 | 47,224 | 45,150 |
| AO (Admin) | 50,352 | 53,681 | 53,020 | 58,859 | 56,273 |
| AO (Operational) | 45,707 | 48,728 | 48,129 | 53,429 | 51,082 |
| EO (Admin) | 43,443 | 46,315 | 45,745 | 50,782 | 48,551 |
| EO (Operational) | 56,355 | 60,081 | 59,342 | 65,876 | 62,982 |
| HEO (Admin) | 40,668 | 43,356 | 42,822 | 47,538 | 45,450 |
| HEO (Operational) | 16,493 | 17,583 | 17,367 | 19,279 | 18,432 |
| SEO (Admin) | 38,023 | 40,536 | 40,038 | 44,446 | 42,494 |
| SEO (Operational) | 66,990 | 71,419 | 70,540 | 78,307 | 74,868 |
| Grade 7 | 57,522 | 61,324 | 60,570 | 67,239 | 64,286 |
| Grade 6 | 16,279 | 17,355 | 17,141 | 19,029 | 18,193 |
| SCS Grade 5 | 3,183 | 3,394 | 3,352 | 3,721 | 3,558 |
| SCS Grade 3 | 7,944 | 8,469 | 8,365 | 9,286 | 8,878 |
| Grand Total | 488,895 | 521,212 | 514,801 | 571,486 | 546,383 |

### Public Transport: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding his Department has allocated to improve public transport in *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* Southampton in 2009-10. [281373]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for capital investment in transport. Funding provided by the Department to local authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities, such as the provision of public transport. Figures are not available at constituency level. The following table shows funding support for Hampshire and Southampton in 2009-10.

| | 2009-10 (£ million) |
|---|---|
| Hampshire | 32.019 |
| Southampton | 4.408 |

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant.

In 2008-09 and 2009-10 special grant funding is being provided by the Department for Transport to meet the additional cost of the new, England-wide concessionary bus travel. The allocations made for this purpose to Test Valley and Southampton for 2009-10 are shown in the following table.

*Concessionary fares funding*

| | 2009-10 (£ million) |
|---|---|
| Southampton | 1.084 |
| Test Valley | 0.231 |

**Public Transport: Peterborough**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding his Department has allocated to the development of public transport in Peterborough in 2009-10. [281684]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport allocates integrated transport block funding to local transport authorities for capital investment in transport. Funding provided by the Department to local authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities, such as the provision of public transport. The Department provided £2.289 million to Peterborough in 2009-10.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

The Department allocates money for rail projects in England but funding information is not available on the basis of local authority boundaries. The same applies for bus service operators grant, which is given direct to bus operators.

In 2008-09 and 2009-10 special grant funding is being provided by the Department for Transport to meet the additional cost of the new, England-wide concessionary bus travel—Peterborough's allocation in 2009-10 was £0.733 million. Peterborough has also been allocated £0.181 million in rural bus subsidy grant for 2009-10.

**Royal Family: Travel**

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 15W, on Royal Family: travel, what steps his Department takes to assess whether travel arrangements proposed by the Royal Travel Office and Royal Household *(a)* achieve value for money and *(b)* minimise environmental impact before providing funding for them. [281735]

**Paul Clark:** Decisions on air and rail travel arrangements for members of the royal family are taken by the royal travel office with regard to agreed criteria, including the need to achieve value for money and minimise the environmental impact.

The royal household seeks to contract in the most economic and efficient way for the supply of air and rail services, consistent with the safety and security of members of the royal family and other key requirements of royal travel. The royal household ensures it takes financial considerations fully into account when framing, reaching, or giving effect to decisions which bear upon the royal travel grant in aid budget.

**Southern: Railway Stations**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Transport for London plans to spend on deep cleaning stations along the South Central franchise route. [280378]

**Chris Mole:** Overall the bidder proposes to spend at least £5.1 million on a deep clean and minor fault rectification package on stations within the Greater London Authority boundary and a further £2.7 million on a similar package outside London. This package of works however will generate additional revenues through enhanced station environments, and as such the net cost to Department for Transport of the package will be significantly below this.

**Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Consultants**

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency has spent on external consultants in each of the last five years. [281630]

**Paul Clark:** The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency has spent the following amount on external consultants in each of the last five years:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 3.4 |
| 2005-06 | 1.4 |
| 2006-07 | 3.0 |
| 2007-08 | 3.7 |
| 2008-09 | [1]1.8 |

[1] Figures for 2008-09 are draft as they are not yet audited and published.

**Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Manpower**

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Vehicle and Operator Services Agency office in each of the last five years. [280614]

**Paul Clark:** The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency employed the following number of staff in the categories requested:

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Directors | 8 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 7 |
| *(b)* Senior Managers | 129 | 141 | 140 | 152 | 158 |
| *(c)* Specialist/ Del. Managers | 311 | 318 | 325 | 341 | 371 |

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (d) Exec/ Admin Support | 1,003 | 946 | 789 | 757 | 752 |

Figures as at 31 March of each year.

### Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Pay

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was paid in bonuses to (a) directors, (b) senior managers, (c) specialist and delivery managers and (d) executive support and administration staff in the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each of the last five years. [280324]

**Paul Clark:** The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has paid the following amount in bonuses:

£

| | (a) Directors[1] | (b) Senior managers | (c) Specialist and delivery managers | (d) Ex and admin support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 5,000 | 4,410 | 4,750 | 5,565 |
| 2005-06 | 41,700 | 7,950 | 5,275 | 24,445 |
| 2006-07 | 30,900 | 6,150 | 4,900 | 18,345 |
| 2007-08 | 51,700 | 20,300 | 19,370 | 10,715 |
| 2008-09[2] | 37,100 | 8,800 | 5,200 | 4,000 |
| Grand total | 166,400 | 47,610 | 39,495 | 63,070 |

[1] Directors' bonuses include senior civil servants performance bonuses that are set centrally within the Department for Transport.
[2] VOSA's 2008 pay award has not been implemented yet.
*Note:*
Figures are based on special performance bonuses. To establish performance related pay (PRP) figures in the manner requested would result in disproportionate cost being incurred.

## JUSTICE

### Arson: Greater London

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for arson there were in each London borough in the latest year for which figures are available. [280847]

**Mr. Straw:** The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences relating to arson in the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas for 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

It is not possible to break down further the data to individual borough level, thus police force area data for Metropolitan and City of London police force areas have been provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*The number of defendants who were found guilty at all courts for offences relating to arson in the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas, 2007[1, 2]*

| Statute | Offence description | Metropolitan police force area | City of London police force area |
|---|---|---|---|
| Criminal Damage Act 1971 Sec.1(2) and (3) | Arson endangering life | 35 | 0 |
| Criminal Damage Act 1971 Sec.1(1) and (3) | Arson not endangering life | 64 | 0 |
| | Total | 99 | 0 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

### Community Legal Advice: Telephone Services

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was spent on the Community Legal Advice telephone service in each year since 2004; [280845]

(2) how many calls have been made to the Community Legal Advice telephone service in each year since 2004. [280846]

**Mr. Straw:** The Community Legal Advice telephone service was launched on 14 July 2004. The total cost of expenditure on the Community Legal Advice telephone service in each year since 2004 is shown in the following table. All figures are inclusive of VAT.

Since 2006 all calls are routed through an initial triage service. The triage service diagnoses problems, assesses eligibility for legal aid and refers people onto alternative sources of help. This service costs approximately £6 per call. Only those eligible for legal aid are then passed through to specialist advisors. These providers won competitive tenders to carry out telephone work and their average hourly rate is approximately £46.

The service started from scratch in 2004 and has evolved since then (for example, family calls were dealt with for the first time in 2008). It is not possible to make meaningful comparisons between the cost per case in 2004 and that in 2009.

| | Total cost (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 3.5 |
| 2005-06 | 5.0 |

| | Total cost (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 8.5 |
| 2007-08 | 13.0 |
| 2008-09 | 14.5 |

The number of calls made to the Community Legal Advice telephone service since its inception is shown in the following table.

| | Number of calls made |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 204,893 |
| 2005-06 | 273,157 |
| 2006-07 | 387,977 |
| 2007-08 | 411,954 |
| 2008-09 | 566,085 |

## Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's estate and (ii) by his Department's agencies in each year from its inception to 2008-09. [280512]

**Mr. Wills:** The tables show the quantity of electricity and gas used in the financial year April 2007 to March 2008, although the Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007 and therefore the figures for the core estate provided include the energy consumption of the Department for Constitutional Affairs' core estate between 1 April and 9 May. Similarly, the figures for the National Offender Management Service's (NOMS) custodial property include the period from 1 April to 9 May when NOMS was part of the Home Office's estate.

The Ministry of Justice is in the process of collating data for 2008-09. This will be made available in the Sustainable Development in Government Report later this year.

*MoJ HQ core estate*

| Energy type | Annual consumption kWh |
|---|---|
| Electricity | 20179413 |
| Natural Gas | 7417634 |

*Her Majesty's Courts Service*

| Energy type | Annual consumption kWh |
|---|---|
| Electricity | 143502717 |
| Natural Gas | 142798412 |

*Tribunals Service*

| Energy type | Annual consumption kWh |
|---|---|
| Electricity | 7487197 |
| Natural Gas | 741894 |

*National Offender Management Service (custodial property)*

| Energy type | Annual consumption kWh |
|---|---|
| Electricity | 316055628 |
| Natural Gas | 810129566 |

*The National Archives*

| Energy Type | Annual consumption kWh |
|---|---|
| Electricity | 12477836 |
| Natural Gas | 7773972 |

*Her Majesty's Land Registry*

| Energy type | Annual consumption kWh |
|---|---|
| Electricity | 20687222 |
| Natural Gas | 21252152 |

## Departmental Land

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies had in each year since the Department was established; [276482]

(2) what the latest valuation is of each site of surplus land owned by his Department and its agencies. [276483]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table identifies surplus land and corresponding valuations within the Ministry of Justice for each year since its establishment in 2007.

| | Site | Valuation (£) |
|---|---|---|
| *Her Majesty's Prison Service* | | |
| 2007-08 | Onley Sewage | [1]85,000 |
| | Frankley Farm | [1]100,000 |
| | Stocken Farm Land Sale | [1]20,000 |
| | Tudworth Lindlhome | [1]1,020,000 |
| | Aldington | [1]105,000 |
| | Exeter Sale | [1]211,000 |
| | Miscellaneous Plots | [1]8,000 |
| | Ley Hill,Gloucestershire | [2]1,500,000 |
| | Portland, Dorset | [2]175,000 |
| 2008-09 | Guys Marsh Sewage | [1]5,000 |
| | Channings Wood | [1]56,000 |
| | Shrewsbury | [1]6,000 |
| | Full Sutton | [1]10,000 |
| | Huntercombe | [1]15,000 |
| | Gringley | [1]5,300,000 |
| | Hindley | [1]38,000 |
| | Wymot | [2]75,000 |
| | Miscellaneous Plots | [1]10,000 |
| | Ley Hill, Gloucestershire | [2]1,500,000 |
| | Portland, Dorset | [2]175,000 |
| *Her Majesty's Courts Service* | | |
| 2007-09 | Ebbw Vale, Gwent | [2]255,000 |
| | New Mills, Derbyshire | [2]145,000 |

[1] Sold for this amount.
[2] Valued at this amount.
*Note:*
Both HMCS sites have been surplus since HMCS's inception in 2005.

## Driving Under Influence

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what percentage of drivers received a ban from driving for drink-driving in each year since 1997; [278626]

(2) how many and what percentage of drivers have had at least one ban from driving due to drink-driving; [278627]

(3) what the average length of a driving ban for drink-driving was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [278628]

**Claire Ward:** The total number of driving licence holders in England, Wales, and Scotland, 1997 to 2007 can be viewed in table 1. From data held by the DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency) it is not possible to separately identify of those holding Driving Licences those that were from either England, Wales, or Scotland

The total disqualifications imposed at all courts for 'Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs', in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007 can be viewed in table 2.

The total number of driving disqualifications imposed and the period of disqualification imposed at all Courts in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007 (latest available) in England and Wales can be viewed in table 3.

From the information available to the Ministry of Justice it is not possible to identify those drivers who have received more than one driving disqualification during the period 1997 to 2007.

The average length of disqualification is not available as the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice does not contain the exact length of disqualification for the requested offences.

Information on court proceedings in Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Executive.

2008 Ministry of Justice data will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Table 1: Total number of driving licence holders in England, Wales, and Scotland, 1997 to 2007[1,2]*

| | Driving licence holders[1] |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 37,285,116 |
| 1998 | 37,644,178 |
| 1999 | 38,071,154 |
| 2000 | 38,437,308 |
| 2001 | 38,508,972 |
| 2002 | 39,214,224 |
| 2003 | 39,791,629 |
| 2004 | 40,389,130 |
| 2005 | 41,077,900 |
| 2006 | 41,681,116 |
| 2007 | 42,345,445 |

[1] Data provided by the DVLA.
[2] From data held by the DVLA, it is not possible to separately identify of those holding driving licences those that were from either England, Wales, or Scotland.
*Source:*
DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency)

*Table 2: Total disqualifications imposed at all courts for 'Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs', in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1]*

| | Total disqualifications imposed |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 92,962 |
| 1998 | 86,191 |
| 1999 | 83,117 |
| 2000 | 80,285 |
| 2001 | 79,274 |
| 2002 | 84,887 |
| 2003 | 87,013 |
| 2004 | 90,308 |
| 2005 | 86,867 |
| 2006 | 87,190 |
| 2007 | 84,007 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
OCJR E and A (Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit), Ministry of Justice

*Table 3: Total disqualifications imposed and period of disqualification imposed at all courts for 'Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs', England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1,2]*

| | | | Period of disqualification | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total disqualifications imposed | Until driving test passed | Under 6 months | 6 months | Over 6 months and under 1 year | 1 year | Over 1 year and under 2 years | 2 years and under 3 years | 3 years | Over 3 years and under 4 years | 4 years and under 5 years | 5 years and under 10 years | 10 years and over. Less than life | Life |
| 1997 | 92,962 | 85 | 234 | 345 | 132 | 35,136 | 21,073 | 11,461 | 20,389 | 221 | 1,512 | 2,168 | 191 | 15 |
| 1998 | 86,191 | 160 | 291 | 291 | 120 | 30,709 | 19,001 | 13,494 | 18,372 | 235 | 1,275 | 2,024 | 188 | 31 |
| 1999 | 83,117 | 178 | 244 | 304 | 101 | 29,402 | 18,694 | 13,159 | 17,597 | 189 | 1,243 | 1,840 | 146 | 20 |
| 2000 | 80,285 | 135 | 246 | 279 | 79 | 27,272 | 18,708 | 14,002 | 16,578 | 146 | 1,247 | 1,481 | 103 | 9 |
| 2001 | 79,274 | 90 | 285 | 284 | 77 | 25,068 | 17,842 | 16,015 | 16,351 | 219 | 1,405 | 1,533 | 98 | 7 |
| 2002 | 84,887 | 88 | 330 | 304 | 75 | 26,185 | 19,500 | 17,129 | 17,644 | 206 | 1,656 | 1,623 | 137 | 10 |
| 2003 | 87,013 | 85 | 288 | 264 | 123 | 26,611 | 19,623 | 18,145 | 18,220 | 199 | 1,578 | 1,741 | 125 | 11 |
| 2004 | 90,308 | 123 | 327 | 304 | 134 | 27,133 | 26,391 | 13,371 | 18,793 | 230 | 1,716 | 1,670 | 103 | 13 |
| 2005 | 86,867 | 127 | 380 | 336 | 113 | 26,027 | 27,323 | 12,240 | 16,947 | 283 | 1,548 | 1,461 | 72 | 10 |
| 2006 | 87,190 | 130 | 408 | 301 | 91 | 25,311 | 28,261 | 13,009 | 16,497 | 242 | 1,433 | 1,417 | 85 | 5 |
| 2007 | 84,007 | 114 | 408 | 284 | 103 | 23,695 | 27,397 | 12,877 | 16,014 | 321 | 1,435 | 1,294 | 56 | 9 |

[1] Included in "Total disqualifications imposed".
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
OCJR E and A (Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit), Ministry of Justice

## Electorate

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many voters were eligible to vote in the *(a)* 2009 elections to the European Parliament and *(b)* 2005 General Election. [281759]

**Mr. Wills:** Figures in relation to the number of people eligible to vote in the *(a)* 2009 elections to the European Parliament and *(b)* 2005 general election are not available. This is because the Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not hold data for the population eligible to vote in parliamentary elections, which includes British citizens resident overseas and excludes foreign citizens (from outside the British Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland) resident within England and Wales. Indeed, there is no central database that holds this information.

The ONS state that the closest available approximation to the number of people registered to vote in the 2009 European election is 45,226,650. This figure refers to the number of people who were registered in the UK to vote in the European election on 1 December 2008 and is based on a qualifying date of 15 October 2008. That was the most recent date for which data on the electorate are collated. The cut off date for registration, as enacted by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 is 11 days before the poll, so the actual number of people registered to vote in the 2009 European election may be different from this figure.

ONS figures show that the number of people who were registered to vote in the UK parliamentary elections for Westminster on 1 December 2004 was 44,180,464. This figure is based on a qualifying date of 15 October 2004 and is the closest available approximation to the number of people who were registered to vote in the 2005 general election when registration closed some six to eight weeks before the poll.

## National Offender Management Information System

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its agencies have spent on C-NOMIS. [280182]

**Maria Eagle:** The cost of the C-NOMIS project from inception to December 2007 was £160.7 million (which excludes depreciation and cost of capital). On 8 January 2008, the C-NOMIS project was revised and became part of the new NOMIS Programme, which is delivering five projects. Expenditure on the NOMIS Programme to 31 March 2009 was £75 million. This sum includes costs incurred in financial year 2008-09 which are still subject to audit.

## Prison Service: Pay

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in HM Prison Service in each of the last five years. [280609]

**Mr. Straw:** Information on the amount paid in Special Bonuses and non-consolidated performance payments to the staff specified is provided in the following tables.

*Table 1: Recorded Special Bonuses 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| | Special Bonuses Recorded | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| Directors (Senior Civil Service) | 16,750 | 5,000 | — | 321,998 | 279,900 |
| Senior Managers (A-D) | 137,868 | 158,546 | 110,962 | 296,449 | 483,141 |
| Specialist / Delivery Managers (Managers E-G) | 214,282 | 282,713 | 234,667 | 482,388 | 875,545 |
| Executive / Admin (AA, AO, EO) | 98,340 | 108,899 | 86,197 | 110,937 | 203,956 |
| Total | 467,555,158 | 555,158 | 431,826 | 1,121,772 | 1,842,542 |

*Table 2: Non-Consolidated Performance Payments 2005-06 to 2008-09*

| | Non-consolidated performance payments | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| Directors (Senior Civil Service) | Data not available | 202,483 | 160,648 | 231,000 | 273,162 |
| Senior and Delivery managers[1] | As above | 633,145 | 404,699 | 450,605 | 625,565 |
| Executive Support/ Admin | As above | 357,813 | 450,656 | 487,540 | 630,265 |
| Total | | 1,193,444 | 1,016,003 | 1,169,145 | 1,428,992 |

[1] It is not possible to separate payments to Senior Managers and Specialist and Delivery Managers without incurring disproportionate cost.

The two tables above are derived from different sources and the data for table 2 cannot be disaggregated. Special Bonuses are reported on Oracle HR and the Non-Consolidated Performance Payments information comes from payroll.

*Table 3: Combined special bonus and non-consolidated performance payments*

| | Non-consolidated performance payments and special bonuses | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *2004-05*[2] | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| Directors (Senior Civil Service) | 16,750,000 | 207,483 | 160,648 | 462,998 | 553,062 |
| Senior and Delivery managers[1] | 352,150,00 | 1,074,404 | 750,328 | 1,229,442 | 1,984,251 |
| Executive Support/ Admin | 98,340,00 | 466,715 | 536,853 | 598,477 | 734,221 |
| Total | 467,240 | 1,748,602 | 1,447,829 | 2,290,917 | 3,271,534 |

1 Information on non-consolidated performance payments not available for 2004-05

## Prisoners

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners aged over 70 are being held in each prison in England and Wales. [281576]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of prisoners aged 70 and over in each prison establishment in England and Wales as at the end of April 2009 can be found in the following table:

| | *70+ population* |
|---|---|
| Acklington | 16 |
| Albany | 25 |
| Altcourse | 5 |
| Ashfield | 0 |
| Ashwell | 1 |
| Askham Grange | 0 |
| Aylesbury | 0 |
| Bedford | 2 |
| Belmarsh | 3 |
| Birmingham | 5 |
| Blantyre House | 2 |

| | 70+ population |
|---|---|
| Blundeston | 1 |
| Brinsford | 0 |
| Bristol | 3 |
| Brixton | 2 |
| Bronzefield | 0 |
| Buckley Hall | 0 |
| Bullingdon | 6 |
| Bullwood Hall | 0 |
| Camp Hill | 1 |
| Canterbury | 1 |
| Cardiff | 2 |
| Castington | 0 |
| Channings Wood | 7 |
| Chelmsford | 3 |
| Coldingley | 0 |
| Cookham Wood | 0 |
| Dartmoor | 17 |
| Deerbolt | 0 |
| Doncaster | 5 |
| Dorchester | 1 |
| Dovegate | 6 |
| Dover | 0 |
| Downview | 1 |
| Drake Hall | 1 |
| Durham | 3 |
| East Sutton Park | 0 |
| Eastwood Park | 0 |
| Edmunds Hill | 1 |
| Elmley | 5 |
| Erlestoke | 3 |
| Everthorpe | 1 |
| Exeter | 6 |
| Featherstone | 1 |
| Feltham | 0 |
| Ford | 4 |
| Forest Bank | 3 |
| Foston Hall | 0 |
| Frankland | 8 |
| Full Sutton | 13 |
| Garth | 4 |
| Gartree | 3 |
| Glen Parva | 0 |
| Gloucester | 3 |
| Grendon/Spring Hill | 2 |
| Guys Marsh | 2 |
| Haslar | 0 |
| Haverigg | 1 |
| Hewell | 3 |
| High Down | 4 |
| Highpoint | 2 |
| Hindley | 0 |
| Hollesley Bay | 1 |
| Holloway | 1 |
| Holme House | 2 |
| Hull | 20 |
| Huntercombe | 0 |
| Kennet | 0 |
| Kingston (Portsmouth) | 4 |
| Kirkham | 0 |
| Kirklevington Grange | 0 |
| Lancaster Castle | 1 |
| Lancaster Farms | 0 |
| Latchmere House | 2 |
| Leeds | 7 |

| | 70+ population |
|---|---|
| Leicester | 1 |
| Lewes | 3 |
| Leyhill | 13 |
| Lincoln | 5 |
| Lindholme | 1 |
| Littlehey | 32 |
| Liverpool | 4 |
| Long Lartin | 1 |
| Low Newton | 0 |
| Lowdham Grange | 0 |
| Maidstone | 14 |
| Manchester | 16 |
| Moorland Closed | 0 |
| Moorland Open | 0 |
| Morton Hall | 1 |
| New Hall | 0 |
| North Sea Camp | 1 |
| Northallerton | 0 |
| Norwich | 17 |
| Nottingham | 3 |
| Onley | 0 |
| Pare | 6 |
| Parkhurst | 8 |
| Pentonville | 0 |
| Peterborough | 7 |
| Portland | 0 |
| Preston | 2 |
| Ranby | 0 |
| Reading | 0 |
| Risley | 7 |
| Rochester | 0 |
| Rye Hill | 2 |
| Send | 1 |
| Shepton Mallet | 4 |
| Shrewsbury | 2 |
| Stafford | 5 |
| Standford Hill | 2 |
| Stocken | 0 |
| Stoke Heath | 0 |
| Styal | 0 |
| Sudbury | 1 |
| Swaleside | 3 |
| Swansea | 1 |
| Swinfen Hall | 0 |
| The Mount | 1 |
| The Verne | 0 |
| The Wolds | 0 |
| Thorn Cross | 0 |
| Usk/Prescoed | 11 |
| Wakefield | 19 |
| Wandsworth | 20 |
| Warren Hill | 0 |
| Warrington | 0 |
| Wayland | 3 |
| Wealstun | 0 |
| Wellingborough | 2 |
| Wetherby | 0 |
| Whatton | 44 |
| Whitemoor | 1 |
| Winchester | 5 |
| Woodhill | 2 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 7 |
| Wymott | 21 |
| Total | 525 |

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners convicted of each category of offence are aged over 70. [281578]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table gives the number of sentenced prisoners aged 70 and over in prison establishments in England and Wales by offence group, as at 30 April 2009:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 84 |
| Sexual offences | 346 |
| Robbery | 4 |
| Theft and handling | 3 |
| Fraud and forgery | 7 |
| Drug offences | 22 |
| Motoring offences | 1 |
| Other offences | 23 |
| All offences | 489 |

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged 70 years and over were sentenced to immediate custody on conviction for each category of offence in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [281580]

**Claire Ward:** The requested information is shown in the following table.

*Number sentenced to immediate custody by offence type, for those aged 70 and over 1997-2007*

| Offence type | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 8 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 11 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 10 |
| Sexual Offences | 49 | 64 | 43 | 62 | 72 | 67 | 60 | 82 | 85 | 88 | 81 |
| Burglary | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Robbery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 9 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 15 | 4 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 4 |
| Fraud and forgery | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 7 |
| Criminal Damage | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Drug Offences | 5 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| Other (excluding motoring offences) | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 6 |
| Indictable Motoring | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Summary non-motoring | 12 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 14 | 9 | 14 | 13 |
| Summary motoring | 3 | 14 | 7 | 18 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Total | 94 | 119 | 89 | 126 | 118 | 112 | 122 | 141 | 141 | 161 | 147 |

*Notes:*
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

The data shows the number of offenders aged 70 and over sentenced to immediate custody for each offence type, in the last 10 years. This data is presented on the principal offence basis, where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

## Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 346, on prisoners release: re-offenders, when he expects to have re-offending data in respect of offenders who are subject to a home detention curfew. [280017]

**Mr. Straw:** I apologise to the hon. Member that the audit process has taken longer than anticipated. The data will be available before summer recess, when I will write to the hon. Member, placing a copy of the reply in the Library.

## Prisoners: Offender Assessment System

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners aged over 70 have been assessed under OASys as *(a)* high risk and *(b)* very high risk; [281577]

(2) how many prisoners aged over 70 held in closed prisons have been assessed as suitable for open prison conditions. [281579]

**Maria Eagle:** During the period 1 April 2008 until 31 March 2009, 42 prisoners aged over 70 were assessed as presenting a high or very high risk of serious harm. The assessment of risk of serious harm was made through the Offender Assessment System (OASys). The OASys data are drawn from administrative IT systems and are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale assessment and recording system.

The information regarding suitability for open prisons could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would involve contacting every prison which would then have to consult the records of individual prisoners.

There has been no relaxation of security categorisation standards and public protection remains paramount when undertaking the categorisation process.

### Prisons: West Lancashire

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 82-3W, on prisons: construction, by what process *(a)* the National Offender Management Service and *(b)* his Department were made aware of the potential site for a Titan prison at Scarisbrick; which location in Scarisbrick was identified as a potential site; what information his Department holds on the present owner of the site; on what date his Department designated the site at Scarisbrick as a potential location for a Titan prison; and by whom that decision was taken. [281771]

**Mr. Straw:** In early 2008, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) commissioned site search agents to identify potential sites for "Titan" prisons in various parts of the country, including the North West.

Among the sites identified in the North-West was a 200 acre golf course at Southport Road, Scarisbrick, L40 8HB. This site was identified on 13 May 2008 by our site search agents but was considered unsuitable by them, an assessment that was subsequently endorsed by NOMS on 16 May 2008. The reason for this was that a golf course in a rural location did not meet the specific requirement for a site close to an urban conurbation with good transport links.

We do not hold information on the current owners of the site as it was rejected at a very early stage of the assessment process.

### Probation

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases the Probation Service handled in each region in each of the last three years; and how many staff were employed by the Probation Service in each region in each such year. [280835]

**Mr. Straw:** The total caseload of offenders supervised by the Probation Service in each region of England and Wales as at 31 December in each of the last three years was as follows:

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 12,906 | 13,872 | 14,122 |
| North West | 39,361 | 39,657 | 37,907 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 24,208 | 24,698 | 25,262 |
| East Midlands | 17,422 | 17,787 | 17,829 |
| West Midlands | 28,361 | 29,255 | 27,844 |
| Eastern | 18,833 | 19,967 | 20,194 |
| London | 41,338 | 41,998 | 43,811 |
| South East | 28,041 | 27,145 | 27,291 |
| South West | 13,919 | 14,536 | 14,839 |
| Wales | 13,169 | 13,807 | 14,335 |

The 2008 figures are provisional and were published on 30 April 2009 in the Ministry of Justice statistics bulletin Probation statistics quarterly brief October to December 2008, England and Wales.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The total number of full time equivalent staff employed by the Probation Service as at 31 March from 2005 to 2007 (latest figures available) are shown in the following table:

*Probation—staff in post figures by region, England and Wales 2005-07*

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North West | 3,213.91 | 3,347.94 | 3,248.13 |
| North East | 1,295.39 | 1,274.82 | 1,298.12 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 2,364.80 | 2,383.72 | 2,386.52 |
| East Midlands | 1,765.08 | 1,886.72 | 1,896.72 |
| Wales | 1,184.35 | 1,300.77 | 1,336.53 |
| West Midlands | 2,253.68 | 2,397.66 | 2,409.70 |
| East of England | 1,549.66 | 1,675.65 | 1,690.03 |
| South West | 1,507.73 | 1,626.15 | 1,628.38 |
| South East | 2,243.49 | 2,408.70 | 2,440.76 |
| London | 2,377.27 | 2,759.33 | 2,868.77 |
| Total | 19,755.36 | 21,061.45 | 21,203.66 |

Notes:
1. Figures provided are full time equivalent (FTE) and are as at 31 March for each year.
2. Information for 2008 is currently unavailable.

### Probation

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the implications for the West Mercia Probation Trust of the proposed merger of the Staffordshire and West Midlands trusts; whether it is his policy to organise the Probation Service on a regional basis; and if he will make a statement. [281312]

**Mr. Straw:** I am aware of the proposed merger of the Staffordshire and West Midlands probation areas. A first application is anticipated in July for Trust status, subject to further endorsement by the two separate boards.

I have made it clear that any proposals on future trust configurations should come from local areas and not be prescribed either regionally or nationally. Already within the West Midlands region, and on a national basis, areas with smaller budgets than West Mercia have applied for and achieved Trust status.

The West Mercia Probation Trust is a first wave trust but it is required to be reassessed in accordance with the new national requirements. It has made one unsuccessful application under the new arrangements and is intending to resubmit in November 2009. Once all areas in the West Midlands region have achieved trust status, whether in their present or merger form, they will be expected to work collaboratively as required to achieve best value in the delivery of their statutory duties.

The Director of Offender Management's office in the West Midlands is currently supporting the efforts of West Mercia Probation Trust to assist them in achieving re-alignment with second wave Trust status.

## Probation: Databases

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many records are held on the *(a)* Delius, *(b)* CRAMS and *(c)* other Probation Service IT case management systems. [280237]

**Mr. Straw:** The Ministry of Justice's Offender Management and Sentencing Analytical Service has indicated that, on average, the breakdown between types of case management systems is 112,000 (40 per cent.) of offender records held in Delius, 98,000 (35 per cent.) held in CRAMS and 70,000 (25 per cent.) held in other systems (ICMS, In Case and IIMS).

## Probation: North Yorkshire

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people from North Yorkshire were *(a)* convicted of an offence and *(b)* referred to the Probation Service for (i) reports and (ii) supervision in each of the last five years. [277054]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of persons found guilty at all courts for all offences in the North Yorkshire Police Force Area, for the years 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is given in table 1.

These data are on the principal offence basis. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Table 1: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for all offences in North Yorkshire Police Force Area, 2003-07[1,2]*

| | Found guilty |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 13,652 |
| 2004 | 14,933 |
| 2005 | 14,572 |
| 2006 | 12,764 |
| 2007 | 14,974 |

1 The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2 Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

*Table 2: Total number of offenders starting supervision in North Yorkshire as at 31 March in each of the last five years*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 2,099 |
| 2005 | 2,296 |
| 2006 | 2,311 |

*Table 2: Total number of offenders starting supervision in North Yorkshire as at 31 March in each of the last five years*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 2,211 |
| 2008 | 2,274 |

*Table 3: Total number of court reports written in the North Yorkshire probation area between the years 2006 and 2008*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 4,355 |
| 2007 | 4,124 |
| 2008 | 4,053 |

Before 2006, the number of court reports written in North Yorkshire is not centrally available.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Probation: South Yorkshire

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding his Department has allocated to South Yorkshire Probation Service in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [281722]

**Maria Eagle:** The resource budget allocations for the South Yorkshire probation area since 2001 are given in the table.

As a result of changes to the budget allocation methodology, plus Machinery of Government changes and accounting methodology changes, it is difficult to compare figures over a long period.

*South Yorkshire probation area budgets 2001-02 to 2008-09*

| | Area: South Yorkshire Revenue (£000) |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 25,511 |
| 2007-08 | 24,282 |
| 2006-07 | 24,058 |
| 2005-06 | 23,041 |
| 2004-05 | 20,858 |
| 2003-04 | 20,381 |
| 2002-03 | 18,191 |
| 2001-02 | 16,153 |

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the rate of *(a)* absence and *(b)* absence resulting from ill-health was among South Yorkshire Probation Service staff in 2008-09; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such absences; and if he will make a statement. [281723]

**Maria Eagle:** The combined rate of all types of absence is not collected however the rate of absence resulting from ill-health (i.e. sickness absence) for South Yorkshire Probation Service staff in 2008-09 was 14.3 days per person. The total cost of sickness absence for South Yorkshire Probation Service, including on costs, for 2008-09 was £1,026,760. In order to address this South Yorkshire Probation Service have launched a sickness absence action plan which has made a significant impact on the incidence of sickness absence. Current levels of sickness absence are 8.2 days per employee.

## Pupils: Absenteeism

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many parents in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have appeared in court on charges related to the unauthorised absence from school of their child in the last (i) six, (ii) 12 and (iii) 24 months. [281319]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply

The Department has policy responsibility for school attendance. However, the Ministry of Justice collects and publishes data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school; and for prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly. It is possible, because of the way courts record data, that some section 444 data is also collected under the more general heading of various offences under the Education Act 1996.

The Ministry of Justice collects prosecution data on the basis of police force areas only and not constituency area. Information on the number of parents prosecuted in Essex for failing to secure their children's regular school attendance between 2006 to 2007 (latest available data) is detailed in the table below. Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences under the Education Act 1996 S.444[1], in Essex police force area, 2006 to 2007[2,3]*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 86 |
| 2007 | 74 |

[1] Includes the following:
*(a)* Failure to secure regular attendance at school. (Education Act 1996 S.444 (1)(2)).
*(b)* Parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school. (Education Act 1996 S.444(8)(1a)(8a) added by Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.72).

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

## Remand in Custody: Children

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children have been remanded in custody in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [281503]

**Maria Eagle:** The decision whether to grant bail or to remand a young person to the care of a local authority or to custody is a matter for the courts, which apply the statutory framework principally set out in the Bail Act 1976. The data in the tables have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board from administrative computer systems. Table A shows the number of remands to (prison) custody in each of the last five years and table B shows the number of remands to local authority care with a security requirement in each of the last five years. Statistics are available only by Youth Offending Team (YOT) area. Where the YOT covers more than one local authority area (as in Wessex, for example) it is not possible to indicate the young person's home local authority.

*Table A: Remand in custody episodes*

| *Youth offending team* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 41 | 30 | 46 | 23 | 31 |
| Barnet | 30 | 19 | 34 | 37 | 27 |
| Barnsley | 28 | 23 | 16 | 16 | 11 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 12 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 11 |
| Bedfordshire | 36 | 32 | 17 | 23 | 32 |
| Bexley | 11 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 10 |
| Birmingham | 249 | 215 | 244 | 176 | 144 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 24 | 17 | 14 | 16 | 13 |
| Blackpool | 21 | 20 | 21 | 26 | 30 |
| Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly | 17 | 8 | 31 | 9 | 9 |
| Bolton | 32 | 45 | 36 | 34 | 37 |
| Bournemouth and Poole | 24 | 28 | 16 | 13 | 8 |
| Bracknell Forest | 3 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 12 |
| Bradford | 63 | 58 | 52 | 68 | 76 |
| Brent | 30 | 33 | 42 | 44 | 58 |
| Bridgend | 15 | 15 | 11 | 13 | 12 |
| Brighton and Hove | 16 | 15 | 18 | 26 | 13 |
| Bristol | 53 | 35 | 55 | 61 | 76 |
| Bromley | 10 | 13 | 21 | 26 | 12 |
| Buckinghamshire | 15 | 7 | 12 | 5 | 10 |
| Bury | 13 | 8 | 15 | 15 | 9 |
| Calderdale | 26 | 19 | 7 | 24 | 24 |
| Cambridgeshire | 24 | 28 | 24 | 14 | 20 |
| Camden | 12 | 21 | 27 | 20 | 21 |
| Cardiff | 71 | 78 | 56 | 65 | 45 |
| Carmarthenshire | 10 | 14 | 23 | 13 | 18 |
| Ceredigion[1] | n/a | n/a | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| Cheshire | 44 | 32 | 41 | 47 | 51 |
| Conwy and Denbighshire | 16 | 11 | 23 | 18 | 21 |
| Cornwall | 8 | 17 | 20 | 29 | 17 |
| Coventry | 65 | 64 | 48 | 38 | 32 |
| Croydon | 48 | 47 | 51 | 57 | 51 |
| Cumbria | 36 | 21 | 40 | 42 | 41 |
| Darlington | 13 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| Derby | 38 | 47 | 29 | 33 | 39 |
| Derbyshire | 30 | 41 | 29 | 17 | 23 |
| Devon | 18 | 21 | 26 | 15 | 16 |
| Doncaster | 26 | 36 | 38 | 38 | 24 |
| Dorset | 6 | 15 | 4 | 10 | 5 |
| Dudley | 47 | 23 | 21 | 21 | 14 |
| Durham | 29 | 34 | 18 | 19 | 23 |
| Ealing | 17 | 21 | 50 | 68 | 58 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 2 | 5 | 12 | 9 | 9 |
| East Sussex | 18 | 25 | 18 | 28 | 22 |
| Enfield | 20 | 41 | 53 | 55 | 37 |
| Essex | 53 | 57 | 57 | 60 | 36 |

*Table A: Remand in custody episodes*

| *Youth offending team* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flintshire | 20 | 9 | 15 | 7 | 3 |
| Gateshead | 17 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 12 |
| Gloucestershire | 34 | 44 | 45 | 31 | 31 |
| Greenwich | 33 | 31 | 33 | 30 | 48 |
| Gwynedd Mon | 18 | 18 | 10 | 9 | 12 |
| Hackney | 51 | 57 | 57 | 75 | 69 |
| Halton and Warrington | 23 | 31 | 22 | 23 | 17 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 15 | 36 | 31 | 35 | 20 |
| Haringey | 57 | 50 | 55 | 58 | 50 |
| Harrow | 4 | 9 | 24 | 17 | 12 |
| Hartlepool | 4 | 6 | 11 | 8 | 16 |
| Havering | 1 | 7 | 20 | 20 | 24 |
| Hertfordshire | 63 | 47 | 56 | 36 | 41 |
| Hillingdon | 27 | 26 | 20 | 34 | 23 |
| Hounslow | 40 | 23 | 30 | 20 | 34 |
| Islington | 31 | 38 | 40 | 50 | 49 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 22 | 10 | 10 | 21 | 19 |
| Kent | 72 | 71 | 85 | 51 | 80 |
| Kingston-upon-Hull | 61 | 65 | 68 | 83 | 49 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 1 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 11 |
| Kirklees | 42 | 42 | 34 | 23 | 25 |
| Knowsley | 29 | 17 | 16 | 20 | 18 |
| Lambeth | 42 | 56 | 79 | 77 | 83 |
| Lancashire | 74 | 97 | 91 | 89 | 68 |
| Leeds | 177 | 119 | 120 | 89 | 87 |
| Leicester City | 64 | 64 | 47 | 40 | 34 |
| Leicestershire | 48 | 28 | 31 | 22 | 24 |
| Lewisham | 46 | 45 | 55 | 36 | 45 |
| Lincolnshire | 32 | 17 | 26 | 26 | 14 |
| Liverpool | 96 | 89 | 71 | 65 | 64 |
| Luton | 35 | 27 | 22 | 15 | 15 |
| Manchester | 186 | 182 | 186 | 140 | 130 |
| Medway | 15 | 13 | 12 | 24 | 29 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 7 | 10 | 17 | 14 | 8 |
| Merton | 12 | 16 | 18 | 15 | 16 |
| Milton Keynes | 9 | 23 | 21 | 20 | 17 |
| Miscellaneous[2] | 15 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Monmouthshire and Torfaen | 4 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 8 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 6 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 37 | 40 | 30 | 35 | 30 |
| Newham | 86 | 62 | 58 | 76 | 74 |
| Newport | 30 | 44 | 23 | 14 | 12 |
| Norfolk | 31 | 26 | 17 | 23 | 19 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 31 | 33 | 25 | 16 | 24 |
| North Lincolnshire | 22 | 12 | 27 | 20 | 18 |
| North Somerset | 10 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| North Tyneside | 37 | 18 | 18 | 30 | 18 |
| North Yorkshire | 13 | 18 | 16 | 21 | 19 |
| Northamptonshire | 59 | 47 | 34 | 64 | 37 |
| Northumberland | 28 | 22 | 24 | 34 | 22 |
| Nottingham | 97 | 63 | 101 | 72 | 82 |
| Nottinghamshire | 33 | 29 | 31 | 31 | 22 |
| Oldham | 31 | 24 | 46 | 37 | 32 |
| Oxfordshire | 30 | 37 | 33 | 36 | 34 |

*Table A: Remand in custody episodes*

| *Youth offending team* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pembrokeshire | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 11 |
| Peterborough | 31 | 25 | 20 | 28 | 26 |
| Plymouth | 23 | 16 | 19 | 34 | 17 |
| Powys[1] | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Reading[3] | 23 | 24 | 22 | 14 | 20 |
| Redbridge | 28 | 24 | 40 | 41 | 27 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff | 25 | 22 | 15 | 7 | 22 |
| Richmond-upon-Thames | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Rochdale | 38 | 38 | 25 | 19 | 34 |
| Rotherham | 25 | 31 | 22 | 19 | 20 |
| Salford | 49 | 65 | 48 | 47 | 35 |
| Sandwell | 73 | 70 | 49 | 40 | 24 |
| Sefton | 9 | 18 | 30 | 15 | 29 |
| Sheffield | 59 | 45 | 50 | 61 | 76 |
| Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin | 15 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 21 |
| Slough | 9 | 10 | 15 | 19 | 15 |
| Solihull | 14 | 19 | 12 | 11 | 15 |
| Somerset | 19 | 22 | 16 | 15 | 17 |
| South Gloucestershire | 3 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 5 |
| South Tees | 38 | 38 | 43 | 29 | 35 |
| South Tyneside | 38 | 19 | 11 | 14 | 14 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 12 | 10 | 14 | 15 | 9 |
| Southwark | 48 | 61 | 65 | 61 | 68 |
| St. Helens | 17 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| Staffordshire | 34 | 38 | 27 | 14 | 20 |
| Stockport | 23 | 22 | 29 | 15 | 16 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 10 | 9 | 14 | 8 | 8 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 36 | 38 | 34 | 28 | 23 |
| Suffolk | 31 | 37 | 18 | 19 | 30 |
| Sunderland | 35 | 36 | 26 | 36 | 14 |
| Surrey | 27 | 31 | 37 | 32 | 19 |
| Sutton | 11 | 18 | 11 | 8 | 13 |
| Swansea | 34 | 29 | 27 | 15 | 17 |
| Swindon | 14 | 17 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| Tameside | 30 | 29 | 45 | 27 | 25 |
| Thurrock | 23 | 6 | 22 | 19 | 25 |
| Torbay | 4 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| Tower Hamlets and City of London | 18 | 36 | 46 | 45 | 44 |
| Trafford | 36 | 39 | 31 | 31 | 23 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 9 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| Wakefield | 29 | 36 | 19 | 27 | 21 |
| Walsall | 23 | 30 | 29 | 27 | 21 |
| Waltham Forest | 30 | 32 | 38 | 38 | 32 |
| Wandsworth | 19 | 26 | 33 | 62 | 41 |
| Warwickshire | 18 | 24 | 31 | 28 | 10 |
| Wessex | 135 | 104 | 120 | 128 | 151 |
| West Berkshire | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| West Sussex | 50 | 55 | 43 | 52 | 53 |
| Westminster | 24 | 23 | 17 | 23 | 21 |
| Wigan | 29 | 23 | 28 | 18 | 19 |
| Wiltshire | 17 | 18 | 12 | 6 | 8 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Wirral | 44 | 26 | 17 | 33 | 17 |
| Wokingham[3] | n/a | n/a | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| Wolverhampton | 33 | 36 | 30 | 24 | 16 |

*Table A: Remand in custody episodes*

| Youth offending team | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Worcestershire and Herefordshire | 70 | 55 | 34 | 23 | 30 |
| Wrexham | 0 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 18 |
| York | 25 | 26 | 24 | 22 | 32 |
| Total | 5,065 | 4,850 | 4,901 | 4,692 | 4,402 |

*Table B: Court ordered secure remand episodes*

| Youth offending team | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Barnet | 3 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| Barnsley | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Bedfordshire | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Bexley | 2 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Birmingham | 34 | 29 | 28 | 26 | 16 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Blackpool | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 4 |
| Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Bolton | 3 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| Bournemouth and Poole | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Bracknell Forest | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Bradford | 6 | 9 | 4 | 12 | 4 |
| Brent | 7 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 12 |
| Bridgend | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Brighton and Hove | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| Bristol | 5 | 7 | 10 | 12 | 8 |
| Bromley | 3 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| Buckinghamshire | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Bury | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| Calderdale | 3 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Camden | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| Cardiff | 7 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 1 |
| Carmarthenshire | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Ceredigion[1] | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cheshire | 8 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| Conwy and Denbighshire | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Cornwall | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Coventry | 7 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Croydon | 2 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| Cumbria | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| Darlington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Derby | 12 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| Derbyshire | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Devon | 2 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Doncaster | 3 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Dorset | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dudley | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Durham | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Ealing | 2 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 4 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| East Sussex | 4 | 4 | 12 | 5 | 0 |
| Enfield | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Essex | 4 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 3 |
| Flintshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Table B: Court ordered secure remand episodes*

| Youth offending team | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gateshead | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Gloucestershire | 8 | 10 | 7 | 0 | 2 |
| Greenwich | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| Gwynedd Mon | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Hackney | 6 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| Halton and Warrington | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 5 |
| Haringey | 5 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Harrow | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Hartlepool | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Havering | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Hertfordshire | 1 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| Hillingdon | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Hounslow | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Islington | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Kent | 9 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 12 |
| Kingston-upon-Hull | 11 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Kinston-upon-Thames | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Kirklees | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Knowsley | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Lambeth | 7 | 10 | 13 | 10 | 8 |
| Lancashire | 10 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 10 |
| Leeds | 36 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 11 |
| Leicester City | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Leicestershire | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Lewisham | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| Lincolnshire | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Liverpool | 7 | 14 | 3 | 7 | 11 |
| Luton | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Manchester | 24 | 33 | 42 | 40 | 16 |
| Medway | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Merton | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Milton Keynes | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Miscellaneous[2] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monmouthshire and Torfaen | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 0 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Newham | 9 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| Newport | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| Norfolk | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 8 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| North Lincolnshire | 10 | 3 | 14 | 4 | 3 |
| North Somerset | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| North Tyneside | 2 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| North Yorkshire | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Northamptonshire | 11 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Northumberland | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Nottingham | 14 | 8 | 18 | 14 | 12 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| Oldham | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| Oxfordshire | 5 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| Pembrokeshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Table B: Court ordered secure remand episodes*

| *Youth offending team* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Peterborough | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 0 |
| Plymouth | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| Powys[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reading[3] | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Redbridge | 3 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Richmond-upon-Thames | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Rochdale | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| Rotherham | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Salford | 10 | 13 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| Sandwell | 14 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 1 |
| Sefton | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Sheffield | 9 | 12 | 17 | 11 | 17 |
| Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Slough | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Solihull | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Somerset | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| South Gloucestershire | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| South Tees | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| South Tyneside | 6 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Southwark | 4 | 2 | 11 | 6 | 14 |
| St. Helens | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Staffordshire | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Stockport | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 6 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| Suffolk | 1 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Sunderland | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Surrey | 1 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Sutton | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Swansea | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Swindon | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Tameside | 5 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| Thurrock | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Torbay | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Tower Hamlets and City of London | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Trafford | 7 | 10 | 15 | 11 | 7 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Wakefield | 1 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| Walsall | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Waltham Forest | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Wandsworth | 9 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 7 |
| Warwickshire | 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Wessex | 15 | 10 | 10 | 19 | 28 |
| West Berkshire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| West Sussex | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| Westminster | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Wigan | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Wiltshire | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wirral | 6 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 7 |
| Wokingham[3] | n/a | n/a | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Wolverhampton | 3 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| Worcestershire and Herefordshire | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Wrexham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| York | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 588 | 604 | 610 | 578 | 610 |

[1] Powys and Ceredigion was a combined YOT prior to April 2005. Earlier figures under "Powys" refer to Powys and Ceredigion.
[2] Young people whose YOT has not been identified.
[3] Reading and Wokingham was a combined YOT prior to April 2007. Earlier figures under "Reading" refer to Reading and Wokingham.

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of time is for which children were held on remand in custody in the last 12 months. [281504]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government believe that young people should only be sent to custody as a last resort. Young people aged 12-16 may be remanded to the care of a local authority with a requirement that they be accommodated in secure conditions. Boys aged 15 and 16 may be remanded to (prison) custody (in practice, a young offender institution) in certain circumstances. Young people aged 17 are treated, in legal terms, as adults, and may not be remanded to local authority care. (Again, they would be placed in an under-18 young offender institution.) Between 1 May 2008 and 30 April 2009, the average length of a remand in custody episode was 40 days and the average length of a remand to the care of a local authority with a security requirement was 47 days.

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children who were held on remand in custody in the last 12 months were aged *(a)* 10 or 11 years, *(b)* 12 or 13 years, *(c)* 13 or 14 years, *(d)* 15 or 16 years and *(e)* 17 or 18 years. [281505]

**Maria Eagle:** The information in the following tables covers the period 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009. It has been supplied by the Youth Justice Board from administrative systems. Section 23 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 empowers a court to remand a young person aged 12 to 16 to the care of a local authority, with a requirement that he or she is kept in secure accommodation. In certain circumstances, 15 and 16-year-old boys may be remanded to prison custody. In legal terms, 17-year-olds are treated as adults for remand purposes, but would be accommodated in an under-18 young offender institution. 18-year-olds are accommodated in the young adult estate: the Youth Justice Board does not collect data in respect of them.

The data in the tables cover each remand "episode"; some young people may have been remanded more than once during the period.

*Young people aged 12 to 16 remanded to local authority accommodation with a security requirement, 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009*

| *Age* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 12 | 13 |
| 13 | 75 |
| 14 | 251 |
| 15 | 158 |
| 16 | 141 |

*Young people aged 12 to 16 remanded to local authority accommodation with a security requirement, 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009*

| Age | Number |
|---|---|
| Total | 638 |

*Boys aged 15, 16 and 17 remanded in custody, 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009*

| Age | Number of remand episodes |
|---|---|
| 15 | 488 |
| 16 | 1,075 |
| 17 | 2,688 |
| Total | 4,251 |

### Young Offenders

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were overseen by each Youth Offending Team in the most recent year for which data is available. [276848]

**Mr. Straw:** The information for each youth offending team is not collected centrally. Youth offending teams oversee young offenders who receive an out-of-court disposal, such as a Final Warning from the police (but, not usually those who receive a police reprimand); appear in court; receive a community sentence; and come out of custody.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bees: Research

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the funding required by the National Bee Unit from his Department to maintain its programme of research into honey bee health at 2008-09 levels in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [278853]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA commissioned approximately £200,000 of research from The Food and Environment Agency's National Bee Unit (NBU) in 2008-09. DEFRA is contributing £2.5 million over the next five years to the insect pollinator initiative announced on 21 April under which up to £10 million will be available from a number of different funders. The initiative is being developed under the Living with Environmental Change programme and the NBU will be eligible to bid for funds. Decisions on what projects will be funded will be made by the Initiative's funders on the basis of whether they fulfil the eligibility criteria, address the issues outlined in the research call and on the basis of their quality. There is also a limited budget available to fund projects at the NBU to address urgent bee health needs.

### Bovine TB Eradication Group

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings the bovine tuberculosis eradication panel has had; if he will publish the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each meeting; and what opportunities there have been for members of the public to make representations to the panel. [281358]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Bovine TB Eradication Group for England has had 13 meetings since it was established in November 2008. The group's highlight notes are published shortly after every meeting and these are available on the DEFRA website.

The group has considered representations from a number of organisations or individuals and, where appropriate, invited them to a meeting to discuss further. The group will continue to invite other experts to contribute to its work as necessary. In addition DEFRA has set up a mailbox so that members of the public, industry bodies and wider interest groups can make enquiries and put forward views.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in identifying pilot sites for the roll-out of badger bovine tuberculosis vaccines. [281357]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Badger Vaccine Deployment areas have been chosen based on specific criteria, which included a historically high incidence of bovine TB in cattle, and in liaison with the Bovine TB Eradication Group for England and other key industry and stakeholder groups.

Six catchment areas of 300 $km^2$ were identified, drawn from the worst affected areas of Staffordshire (Eccleshall area), Herefordshire and Worcestershire border (North of Bromyard, East of Tenbury Wells), Gloucestershire (Cotswolds, North-east of Cheltenham and North West of Stroud, towards the Severn Valley) and Devon (East and West of Tiverton).

Meetings are being held with key regional representatives and, separately, veterinary practices in each area and DEFRA, with Fera, will be working with local people and looking for participants within these regions to define up to 100 $km^2$ to be vaccinated. Regional meetings will be held with farmers in the autumn, with participants sign-up shortly thereafter.

### Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science: Consultants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research spent on external consultants in each of the last five years. [280596]

**Dan Norris:** CEFAS expenditure on management consultancy is outlined in the following table:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 5,549 |
| 2005-06 | 38,251 |
| 2006-07 | 161,738 |
| 2007-08 | 57,803 |
| 2008-09 | 72,422 |

This expenditure covers specialist external consultancy for the primary purpose of providing advice to CEFAS management. Examples include:

£132,000 spread across 2005-06 and 2006-07 in supporting a response to the DEFRA Laboratory Strategy Programme

Typically £50,000 specialist support for major procurement exercises each year from 2006/07 onwards

£30,000 to date for developing our safety and quality management systems.

The table excludes temporary staff and contractors providing specialised skills and experience under our supervision and guidance. It also excludes technical and scientific consultancy that CEFAS draws on to augment its in-house expertise.

CEFAS also forms part of a public sector partnership with local authorities to develop new office and laboratory facilities, for completion in 2011. CEFAS has committed costs within the partnership of : 2006-07 £549,658, 2007-08 £983,668 and 2008-09 £305,829 to cover design and development of this scheme.

## Dairy Farming

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will request the supermarkets to assist in dealing with the consequences of the failure of dairy farmers of Great Britain. [281924]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* This is a commercial issue, and we have not specifically asked supermarkets to assist with the consequences of the closure of dairy farmers of Britain.

We have asked banks and others directly involved to be sympathetic in their dealings with those farms and businesses affected by the collapse.

## Departmental Research

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated for research and development in each year since 1997. [279906]

**Dan Norris** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* DEFRA spent the following amounts on research and development:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 131 |
| 2003-04 | 147 |
| 2004-05 | 153 |
| 2005-06 | 156 |
| 2006-07 | 146 |
| 2007-08 | 138 |
| 2008-09 | 130 |
| 2009-10 | 130 |
| 2010-11 | [1]130 |

[1] Planned expenditure

*Notes:*

1. These figures were taken from data available through DEFRA's Science Information DEFRA was formed in 2001 through the merging of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) with part of the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR). Consequently, comparable figures are only available from 2002 onwards.
2. From 2008, responsibility for work on mitigating climate change was transferred to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). Figures from 2008-9 onwards reflect this change.
3. These figures relate to Research and Development directly managed by DEFRA. Other Government Departments and publicly funded bodies, such as the Research Councils, also fund research which has policy relevance to DEFRA. For instance DEFRA is a leading participant in the Living With Environmental Change programme which aims to fund £1 billion of research between 2007-12 to provide the UK's decision makers with the best information to manage and protect vital ecosystem services in the most effective and practical ways.



## Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to amend the Environmental permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, Schedule 1, Part 2, section 1:1 in the light of the Court of Appeal ruling in the 2007 OSS Group v Environment Agency case; and if he will make a statement. [281488]

**Dan Norris:** With the aim of fulfilling the appeal court's judgment in the OSS case, the Environment Agency carried out a public consultation on an end-of-waste protocol for:

"the production and use of processed fuel oil from waste lubricating oil".

On conclusion of the Agency's consideration of the responses to that consultation, DEFRA will submit a post-consultation draft of the protocol to the European Commission, and other member states, in compliance with the Technical Standards Directive (98/34/EC). However, DEFRA has no plans to amend the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 in the light of the court's judgment in the OSS case.

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the effects on levels of exports of used cooking oil to other EU members states of the provisions of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, Schedule 1, Part 2, Section 1:1; and if he will make a statement. [281825]

**Dan Norris:** This threshold was contained in predecessor Regulations dating back to the last decade. No assessment of its impact specifically on the exports of used cooking oil has been carried out. DEFRA has no plans to change the threshold.

## Food

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* pork and *(c)* lamb consumed in the UK was produced domestically in each year since 1997. [281891]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Estimates of the percentage of beef and veal, pig meat and mutton and lamb consumed which were produced domestically in each year since 1997 are provided in the table. Figures for 2009 are not yet available. The figures provided are based on volumes of production and trade. The figures are affected by market conditions in the UK and abroad. Factors affecting market conditions include exchange rates, animal disease and consumer demand. When interpreting the figures it is important to look at the trends over time, rather than concentrating on figures for individual years.

For beef and veal and mutton and lamb the percentage has been relatively stable over the whole period. For pig meat the percentage declined from over 60 per cent. in 1997 to just over 40 per cent. in 2003 due to declining domestic production and increased imports, but has also been fairly stable since then.

*Estimate of the percentage consumed from domestic production*

| | *Beef and veal* | *Pig meat* | *Percentage Mutton and lamb* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 76 | 63 | 38 |
| 1998 | 82 | 63 | 63 |
| 1999 | 78 | 61 | 65 |
| 2000 | 78 | 53 | 66 |
| 2001 | 71 | 55 | 67 |
| 2002 | 70 | 50 | 66 |
| 2003 | 69 | 43 | 62 |
| 2004 | 69 | 41 | 62 |
| 2005 | 72 | 40 | 65 |
| 2006 | 75 | 39 | 63 |
| 2007 | 74 | 40 | 65 |
| 2008 | 72 | 41 | 63 |

*Source:*
Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2008, DEFRA

### Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the scientific advice commissioned by his Department on the cultivation of genetically-modified in maize and sweetcorn; and what consideration he has given to the implications for his policy on such cultivation of the provisions of the Environmental Liability Directive. [281971]

**Dan Norris:** We receive advice on applications for European Union (EU) approval to cultivate GM crops from the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE). Its advice on the safety of two types of GM maize for which EU decisions are due, known as Bt11 and 1507 respectively, is available on the DEFRA website at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/acre/pdf/advice/acre-advice-Bt11-maize.pdf

and

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/acre/pdf/advice/acre-advice-gm-maize-es-01-01.pdf

ACRE and the European Food Safety Authority have both said that Bt11 and 1507 do not pose any greater risk for human health and the environment than conventional maize. It is therefore not expected that any issues should arise in relation to possible liability for environmental harm. Moreover, neither Bt11 nor 1507 maize are expected to be grown in the UK, because they are not suitable for our growing conditions and would not offer any benefit to our farmers.

### Landfill

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued to the Environment Agency on the account to be taken of consequential environmental impacts that may occur beyond the perimeter of a site which is the subject of an application for a licence for landfill when considering whether or not to grant such a licence; and if he will make a statement. [281998]

**Dan Norris** *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* The principal objective of waste legislation is to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health or the environment. Any establishment or undertaking carrying out waste recovery or disposal in England and Wales is required to obtain a permit from the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency is required to exercise its functions for the purpose of ensuring the principal objective is met and may not grant a permit where it considers there to be an unacceptable risk to the environment or human health. The Agency may only grant a permit where relevant planning permission is in place and may impose requirements in permits that relate to the preparation, operation, monitoring and control procedures as well as the closure and after-care of a landfill. The Environment Agency has a duty to take action to reduce any negative impacts that are a direct result of a permitted activity. The Environment Agency's criteria apply both inside and outside the site.

### Oil: Waste Disposal

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations govern the combustion of *(a)* diesel and *(b)* used cooking oil that has been classified as being end-of-waste; and if he will make a statement. [281362]

**Dan Norris:** The relevant thresholds are given in schedule 1, part 2, of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 and are as follows:

*(a) Diesel*

Section 1.1 part A(1) (a) 50 MW.

*(b) Used cooking oil that has been classified as non-waste*

Section 1.1 part A(1) (a) 50 MW.

Section 1.1 part A(1) (b) 3-50 MW.

The relevant section will be dependent upon the specific type of material being burnt.

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on whether an end-of-waste product manufactured from used cooking oil requires a permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, Schedule 1, Part 2, Section 1:1; and if he will make a statement. [281363]

**Dan Norris:** The question of whether any particular waste has been fully recovered and has ceased to be waste must be determined on the facts of the case and taking into account relevant case law on the definition of waste. The environment agency is responsible for the implementation of waste management controls in England and Wales. Schedule 1, part 2, section 1.1 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 applies to fuel manufactured from waste regardless of whether the waste from which it has been manufactured has been fully recovered and has ceased to be waste. DEFRA has not issued guidance specifically advising on the question of whether fuel manufactured from used cooking oil requires a permit under this provision.

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to amend the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, Schedule 1, Part 2, Section 1:1 in the light of the European Court of Justice ruling in the 2000 ARCO Chemie case; and if he will make a statement. [281364]

**Dan Norris:** The Arco Chemie case is discussed in the "Interpretative Communication on waste and by-products" published by the European Commission on 21 February 2007. DEFRA has no plans to amend the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 in the light of this judgment.

### Recycling: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of waste arising in each local authority area in the ceremonial county of Hampshire was recycled in each of the last five years. [281371]

**Dan Norris:** The following table shows the percentage of municipal waste sent to be recycled, composted or reused by each authority in the ceremonial county of Hampshire in the financial years 2003-04 through to 2007-08.

Some data for 2004-05 are unavailable due to authorities not providing complete data returns.

*Percentage of municipal waste sent for recycling, composting or reuse*

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southampton City Council | 12.69 | — | 24.75 | 25.50 | 26.77 |
| Portsmouth City Council | 18.22 | 20.92 | 23.33 | 24.84 | 26.40 |
| Winchester City Council | 17.08 | 18.43 | 19.50 | 21.35 | 31.32 |
| Test Valley Borough Council | 14.76 | — | 21.71 | 27.42 | 35.47 |
| Rushmoor Borough Council | 16.89 | 22.01 | 21.67 | 22.72 | 26.13 |
| New Forest District Council | 26.09 | 26.16 | 25.13 | 28.25 | 32.61 |
| Havant Borough Council | 18.65 | — | 23.28 | 30.11 | 31.99 |
| Hart District Council | 17.65 | 24.18 | 22.57 | 30.28 | 39.07 |
| Gosport Borough Council | 15.37 | — | 23.62 | 24.08 | 25.83 |
| Fareham Borough Council | 25.63 | — | — | 38.49 | 39.79 |
| Eastleigh Borough Council | 31.19 | — | — | 36.80 | 37.44 |
| East Hampshire District Council | 33.51 | — | 33.50 | 35.19 | 38.36 |
| Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council | 16.15 | 16.63 | 16.43 | 19.12 | 22.06 |
| Hampshire County Council | 15.51 | — | 34.39 | 38.26 | 41.49 |
| Isle of Wight Council | 26.17 | 24.88 | 28.82 | 30.35 | 33.49 |

*Source:*
DEFRA municipal waste management survey and WasteDataFlow.

### Recycling: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of waste arising in Peterborough local authority area was recycled in each of the last five years. [281665]

**Dan Norris:** The following table shows the percentage of municipal waste sent to be recycled, composted or reused in Peterborough city council in the financial years 2003-04 through to 2007-08.

*Peterborough city council*

| | *Percentage of municipal waste sent for recycling, composting or reuse* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 28.19 |
| 2004-05 | 27.87 |
| 2005-06 | 32.11 |
| 2006-07 | 40.09 |
| 2007-08 | 43.17 |

*Source:*
DEFRA municipal waste management survey and WasteDataFlow

### Renewable Energy: Waste

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on the renewable energy sector of the level of rated thermal input allowed by a Part 1A permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007; [276124]

(2) if he will increase the level of rated thermal input allowed by a Part 1A permit required under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007 for fuel manufactured from waste which has attained an end-of-waste certificate. [276677]

**Dan Norris:** I assume both these questions refer to a provision in Part A(1) of Section 1.1 of Annex I of the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2007. This provision refers to burning waste oil, recovered oil or any fuel manufactured from, or comprising, any other waste. If such material is burnt in an appliance with a rated thermal input of more than 3 megawatts, that activity will require a permit from the Environment Agency which embodies integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) requirements.

The 3 megawatt threshold was contained in predecessor Regulations dating back to the last decade. No assessment of its impact specifically on the renewable energy sector has been carried out. DEFRA has no plans to change the threshold.

### School Milk

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many schools in each local authority area provided milk to children under the *(a)* EU School Milk Subsidy and *(b)* the national top-up scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [277851]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We do not hold figures on the number of schools that provide milk as part of the EU School Milk Scheme.

However, there are currently 171 organisations claiming under the scheme in Great Britain:

155 local authorities;

six schools;

one parish council;

three town councils; and

six other organisations.

### Veterinary Laboratories Agency: Consultants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Veterinary Laboratories Agency spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [279541]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Veterinary Laboratories Agency has spent the following on consultants in each of the last five years:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 978,427 |
| 2005-06 | 996,799 |
| 2006-07 | 854,874 |
| 2007-08 | 793,702 |
| 2008-09 | 480,418 |

Income in 2008-09 was £106 million with expenditure on 'consultancy' of £480,418. This includes just under £300,000 for specialist scientific IT consultancy; £100,000 on management and financial consultancy; with the remaining expenditure on specialist scientific/veterinary consultancy.

The overall spend for the first two categories is similar for previous years, with a decline from 2004-05 through to 2008-09 in specialist scientific/veterinary consultancy as these specialist skills have been developed in house.

### Waste Disposal: EC Countries

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has undertaken research on the treatment of end-of-waste product in other EU members states; and if he will make a statement. [281826]

**Dan Norris:** No such research has been undertaken by DEFRA. However, Article 6 of the revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD) (2008/98/EC) enables the European Commission to adopt end-of-waste criteria for specified waste. With a view to the adoption of such criteria, the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) has carried out preparatory work and has published reports entitled "Study on the selection of waste streams for end-of-waste assessment" and "End-of-waste criteria, methodology and case studies". DEFRA participated in the JRC-chaired discussions that preceded the publication of these reports.

Article 6 of the revised WFD also provides that, where end-of-waste criteria have not been set by the Commission:

"Member states may decide case by case whether certain waste has ceased to be waste taking into account applicable case law."

Member states must notify the Commission of such decisions in accordance with the Technical Standards Directive (98/34/EC).

## OLYMPICS

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used on her Office's estate in each year from its inception to 2008-09. [280521]

**Tessa Jowell:** My ministerial portfolio requires my Office to operate across the estates of the Cabinet Office and Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The costs for *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas will be included in the answers provided by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith) and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for her Office's estate in each year from its inception to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans she has for future energy efficiency measures. [280531]

**Tessa Jowell:** My ministerial portfolio requires my Office to operate across the estates of the Cabinet Office and Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Energy efficiency measures, assessment of the effectiveness of these measures and future plans for energy efficiency measures will be included in the answers provided by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith) and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of her Office's estate. [280558]

**Tessa Jowell:** My ministerial portfolio requires my Office to operate across the estates of the Cabinet Office and Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The responsibility for energy efficiency will be included in the answers provided by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith) and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many laptop computers belonging to her Office have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281074]

**Tessa Jowell:** Since my Office was established in July 2007 no laptops have been lost or stolen from my private office.

### Olympic Delivery Authority: Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) office since the inception of the ODA. [280315]

**Tessa Jowell:** As of 31 May 2009, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) employed 245 members of staff. This consists of permanent staff, fixed term contract staff, and secondments. Staff are broken into pay bands across the ODA as set out in the following table. The table also provides the breakdown of staff as at 31 March 2007 and 2008 respectively.

| Band | Role | 31 May 2009 | 31 March 2008 | 31 March 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | CEO | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | Directors | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 4 | Heads of Function | 28 | 27 | 18 |
| 3 | Managers/ Technical Professionals | 89 | 74 | 44 |
| 2 | Executives/ Officers | 58 | 37 | 17 |
| 1 | Administrative Support | 62 | 46 | 29 |
| | Total | 245 | 192 | 116 |

The ODA expect overall staffing levels within the organisation to reduce over time as construction progresses on the big five venues for the London 2012 Games although in the transportation area staffing levels will increase as we move closer to Games operations.

### Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympics road cycling event at Regent's Park. [279776]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The direct costs associated with staging the road cycling event in Regent's Park, which is a publicly owned venue, come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security, transport and other functions associated with the venue. However, these costs have not yet been identified separately for Regent's Park, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

### Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympic shooting event at the Royal Artillery Barracks. [280508]

**Tessa Jowell:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for the staging of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) constructing the major venues.

The direct costs associated with staging the events come from LOCOG's revenues, which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse. The ODA is funding some costs at the Royal Artillery Barracks, but project budgets cannot be disclosed owing to reasons of commercial sensitivity, as the contract is yet to be awarded.

There will be other attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. However, these costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

### Olympic Games 2012: Tourism

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate she has made of the number of additional visitors expected to visit each *(a)* region and *(b)* London borough as a result of the London 2012 Olympics. [280363]

**Tessa Jowell:** Using the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Ltd (LOCOG)'s London 2012 Ticket Allocation Model, the Oxford Economics study, 'The Value of the London 2012 Games and Paralympic Games to UK Tourism', published in September 2007 and commissioned by VisitBritain and Visit London, estimated that there will be approximately 900,000 attendees at events related to the 2012 Games.

However, this will contribute only a small part of the estimated £2.1 billion tourism gains for the UK as a whole that will result from the Games during the period 2007-17. The study has also estimated that there will be in excess of 32 million UK-wide extra nights stayed by visitors as a result of the Games, of which nearly 22 million will be in London. No other London or regional breakdown is currently available.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281079]

**Paul Goggins:** There have been 10 breaches of information security since 1 January 2004.

The Northern Ireland Office and its agencies report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the ICO. Information on personal data security breaches are published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

### Departmental Location

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on relocation costs for new members of staff in each of the last three years. [280773]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, has had no expenditure on resettlement costs for new members of staff in each of the last three years.

### Prisoners Release: Northern Ireland

**Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign national prisoners were released from Northern Ireland prisons in each of the last five years. [281332]

**Paul Goggins:** Between July 2006 and May 2009 releases were as shown in the following table and include immigration detainees who have served a sentence and were held on immigration warrants:

| | *July 2006 to June 2007* | *July 2007 to April 2008* | *May 2008 to May 2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Released time served | 72 | 101 | 165 |
| Released on bail | 96 | 72 | 102 |
| Discharged by the court | 25 | 18 | 73 |
| Released fine paid | 11 | 8 | 14 |
| Released by hospital order | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Transferred to UK prison | — | — | 1 |
| Released, charges withdrawn | — | — | 8 |
| Released into IND/ UKBA custody for consideration of removal/deportation | 21 | 41 | 53 |
| Total | 226 | 242 | 419 |

Prior to July 2006 statistics are available only on those foreign national prisoners released from Northern Ireland prisons who were serving a sentence of 12 months or more. Between January 2004 and June 2006, 16 such foreign national prisoners were released, seven of whom into the custody of the Immigration and Nationality Department (IND).

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281071]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department has had nine security incidents over the past five years. Royal Parks, our one agency, has had nine security incidents in the same period.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280568]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Director of Corporate Services is responsible for energy efficiency for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's estate.

### Departmental Finance

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies on administration of the making of grants as a proportion of the amount of grants made in 2008-09. [281237]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not hold this data. To provide this information would incur disproportionate costs. However, a report by the National Audit Office entitled "Making grants efficiently in the culture, media and sports sector" was published in May 2008. Please see the following link.

http://www.nao.org.uk/our_work_by_sector/culture_media_and_leisure/making_grants_efficiently.aspx

### Departmental Food

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281947]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department procures the following percentage of domestic produce:

*(a)* Meat: 96 per cent.

*(b)* Fruit: 70 per cent.

*(c)* Vegetables: 86 per cent.

### Departmental Press: Subscriptions

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to which *(a)* magazines, *(b)* journals and *(c)* newspapers his Department subscribes; and what the cost of such subscriptions has been in each of the last three years. [280763]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information in the following table represents expenditure incurred by the Department on subscriptions for hard copy and online magazines, newspapers, books and other publications, access to specific research databases, the Stationery Office and other parliamentary information sources as well as legal online and hard copy updating services.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 160,368 |
| 2007-08 | 175,666 |
| 2008-09 | 200,707 |

*Notes:*

1. All figures given to nearest whole figure.
2. The 2008-09 figures have yet to be audited and are therefore subject to change.

The way our financial information has been recorded does not allow us to disaggregate newspapers, magazines and journals from the overall expenditure. To provide a list of individual titles to which the Department subscribes would incur a disproportionate cost in excess of £750.

## Gambling: Internet

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of steps taken by the online gambling industry to identify and prevent fraud in relation to bets taken on sport. [280146]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Licensed betting operators are required by the Gambling Commission to provide information in relation to bets they suspect may relate to an offence under the Act. The Commission is working with all licensed betting operators to ensure the identification and prevention of fraud in relation to sports betting is effective.

In addition, the expert panel on sports integrity I am establishing will look at, consider and report on, a range of issues including the identification and prevention of online fraud in relation to betting integrity.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will submit to the European Commission a paper giving the Government's opinion on the legislation proposed by the French government on the operation of its domestic online gambling market; and if he will discuss with the government of Malta the likely effects of its policy on that matter on UK leisure and gaming businesses. [280147]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The UK Government have submitted comments to the European Commission under the technical notification procedure on the French legislative proposals in relation to online gambling. We are concerned that some of the measures contained in the notification may constitute restrictions to trade and our comments have emphasised the need for any restrictions to be justified by imperative reasons in the general interest; to be suitable for achieving the objectives in question; to be necessary and proportionate; and to be applied in a non-discriminatory manner, as interpreted by decisions of the European Court of Justice.

I have no plans to conduct formal discussions with the Government of Malta over this matter although my officials found the detailed opinions submitted by the Government of Malta and the European Commission helpful when considering this issue.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received from UK leisure and gaming businesses on the likely effects on them of *(a)* provisions relating to a sports rights levy and *(b)* other provisions proposed by the French government in draft legislation on its domestic online gambling market. [280148]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Officials from the Department recently met with representatives from the remote gambling industry to discuss the French legislative proposals on online gambling. During that meeting, the industry set out their concerns over the impact some of the proposals might have on UK gambling businesses, including in respect of the provisions relating to a sports rights levy.

## Licensed Premises: Gambling

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the outcomes of the consultations on premises licence regulations (section 172(6)) (gaming tables). [281595]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* The Consultation on Casino Premises Licence Regulations under section 172(6) of the Gambling Act 2005 closed on 15 May 2009. I am considering all responses and will make an announcement shortly.

## Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [279814]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have been asked to reply.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are a key priority across Government. The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) was set up within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to oversee the delivery of Government objectives for the Games.

As of 15 June, the GOE consisted of 93.7 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff. Of this total, no members of staff are working in roles defined as project management roles, 21.5 are working in roles mainly relating to legacy planning, 14 on roles mainly relating to project oversight, and six on roles mainly relating to financial control/ oversight. The remainder of staff work mainly on programme assurance and risk management, staging, strategic communications and parliamentary matters.

In terms of further specific posts relating to Olympic projects within DCMS, 7.5 FTE staff are employed on Olympic Programme Management, the Cultural Olympiad and in the Press Office. Of these, approximately 3.4 FTE are in roles relating to project management and approximately 1.1 FTE in roles relating to project oversight. The purpose of these posts is to manage the wider DCMS interests in relation to staging the Games such as elite sport, sport participation, tourism and culture. The remaining three FTE staff are full time press officers.

As of 31 May 2009, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) employed 245 members of staff. This consists of permanent staff, fixed term contract staff, and secondments. Contained within the fixed term contract staff category there are a number of graduates that have been recruited for a 10 month placement as part of the ODA's graduate placement scheme.

Of the 245 members of staff employed by the ODA, 136 are currently working in project management roles across a number of ODA teams.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of those staff that are exclusively working on legacy planning roles as every project within the programme is considered with legacy in mind ensuring that legacy requirements are incorporated into design briefs, specifications and

business plans. This approach is designed to ensure that the London 2012 Games will be the catalyst for the regeneration of one of the most underdeveloped areas of the UK.

The ODA currently has nine members of staff with overall project oversight responsibilities, and 19 employees who work closely with its Delivery Partner on the financial oversight of the programme. In addition the ODA has engaged Ernst and Young to provide an Internal Audit service.

The ODA expect overall staffing levels within the organisation to reduce over time as construction progresses on the big five venues for the London 2012 Games although in the transportation area staffing levels will increase as we move closer to Games operations.

Information relating to DCMS's other non-departmental public bodies who are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympics could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Future staffing levels in the GOE will remain under review, within the overall budgetary settlement agreed with HM Treasury.

## Playing Fields

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* enable and *(b)* encourage local authorities to increase their provision of sports pitches. [280269]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Sport England have advised that local authorities are encouraged to develop strategies for the provision of playing fields in their area under Planning Policy Guidance Note 17(2002). Sport England provides further advice on how to do this in its document—Towards a Level Playing Field.

This clearly states that local authorities should ensure that they have an adequate supply of pitches to meet current and future needs within their area. The Department for Communities and Local Government are committed to updating Planning Policy Guidance Note 17(2002) in the near future.

## Sport: Norwich

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department allocated to sport-related groups in Norwich in each of the last five years. [282036]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department allocated Sport England over £480 million of Exchequer funding in the last five years, to invest in community sport both through National Governing Bodies and more specific local initiatives.

In addition, in 2009-10, the Department has allocated Sport England £135.7 million of Exchequer funding. Sport England has targets to get one million people doing more sport by 2012-13, and to make a major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people. Norwich will benefit, alongside every area of England, from Exchequer and lottery investment by Sport England in 2009-10 in support of these targets.

Specifically, Sport England have advised that the following initiatives have received funding to support participation in sport in Norwich in each of the last financial years.

| *Financial year* | *Parliamentary constituency* | *Recipient* | *Project description* | *Total award (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | Community sports coach scheme | 30,333 |
| Total | | | | 30,333 |
| 2005-06 | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | Community sports coach scheme | 95,460 |
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | PESSCL and coaching taskforce | 10,000 |
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | PESSCL and coaching taskforce | 9,100 |
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | PESSCL and coaching taskforce | 43,775 |
| | Norwich, North | Broadland District Council | Community sports co-ordinator | 3,000 |
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | Norfolk consumer support network | 3,000 |
| Total | | | | 164,335 |
| 2006-07 | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | Community sports coach scheme | 140,878 |
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | PESSCL and coaching taskforce | 3,750 |
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | PESSCL and coaching taskforce | 20,000 |
| Total | | | | 164,628 |
| 2007-08 | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | Community sports coach scheme | 130,053 |
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | PESSCL (PESSYP from January 2008) and coaching taskforce | 20,000 |
| Total | | | | 150,053 |
| 2008-09 | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | Community sports coach scheme | 36,766 |
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | Community sports coach scheme | 71,187 |
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | PESSCL (PESSYP from January 2008) and coaching taskforce | 22,000 |
| | Norwich, North | Hellesdon High School | New facility build | 65,000 |
| | Norwich, South | Active Norfolk County Sports Partnership | Active Lloyds Norfolk | 16,713 |
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk Lawn Tennis Association | Norfolk lawn tennis association | 24,999 |

| Financial year | Parliamentary constituency | Recipient | Project description | Total award (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | Active Norfolk extending activity capacity funding | 26,000 |
| | Norwich, South | Norfolk County Council | Active Norfolk extending activity delivery funding | 225,600 |
| | Norwich, South | Norwich City Football in the Community | Norwich City FC football in the community | 6,000 |
| Total | | | | 494,265 |
| Grand total | | | | 1,003,614 |

### Sports: Finance

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department made available to maintain and improve sporting facilities in *(a)* the borough of Test Valley and *(b)* Southampton in each of the last five years. [281452]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department has allocated Sport England over £480 million of Exchequer funding in the last five years to invest in community sport both through National Governing Bodies and more specific local initiatives.

In addition, in 2009-10, the Department has allocated Sport England £135.7 million of Exchequer funding. Sport England has targets to get 1 million people doing more sport by 2012-13, and to make a major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people. Test Valley and Southampton will benefit, alongside every area of England, from Exchequer and Lottery investment by Sport England in 2009-10 in support of these targets.

Specifically, Sport England have advised that the following initiatives have received funding to support participation in sport in Test Valley and Southampton.

*Free Swimming*

Southampton Unitary Authority has opted in to the Under 16 and Over 60 Free Swimming Programme and has received £173,211. The local authorities that have opted to offer the scheme to both age groups have also received a share of a £10 million capital fund to spend on modernising or improving pool provision. Southampton has received £69,290 in this regard.

*Sportsmatch*

There have been two awards in the Test Valley area totalling £13,580 under the Sportsmatch scheme which aims to support the development of grassroots sport in England.

*Southampton Amateur Rowing Club*

Two payments in the last five years totalling £179,487 have been made for renovation and refurbishment work.

*Southampton Amateur Gym Club*

Three payments in the last five years totalling £258,414 have been made for renovation and refurbishment work.

### Tourism: Economic Situation

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the potential contribution of the tourism industry towards economic recovery. [280255]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* Tourism is the United Kingdom's fifth largest industry. It contributes over £86 billion a year to the national economy and supports, both directly and indirectly, over 2.7 million jobs.

However, the number of overseas visitors to these shores has fallen this year compared with previous ones. But outbound visits by UK residents have also fallen, and these were 6 per cent. lower in January to February 2009 than they were in the same period last year. This offers a potentially good prospect for domestic tourism at a time when current projections show employment in the tourism and hospitality industry will grow by almost 10 per cent. by 2017, creating over 200,000 additional jobs.

Other opportunities the industry is well placed to exploit include: favourable currency exchange rates; the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; the unprecedented number of high level sports events in the UK in the decade between 2009 and 2019; the Cultural Olympiad and, potentially, the UK City of Culture Competition.

These opportunities, combined with the UK's enviable heritage and attractions, mean that the contribution that the tourism industry would make to the UK's economic recovery could be considerable.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Asylum

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the implications of the recent Slough and Coventry court judgements for the provision of emergency support for vulnerable refused asylum seekers by local authorities. [281573]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Department for Communities and Local Government has made no formal assessment of the court judgments. Refused asylum seekers are the responsibility of the UK Border Agency.

### Council Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much revenue was collected in *(a)* rent and *(b)* right to buy receipts in each local authority in each of the last 10 years. [280175]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I have placed in the Library of the House the available information for the last 10 years on *(a)* rents collected in respect of dwellings held in each local authority's housing revenue account and *(b)* receipts.

Information on receipts arising from the sale of dwellings under right to buy is available from the Department's website on:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-648.xls

### Council Housing: Finance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the report of the Review of Council Housing Finance will be published. [281493]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Review of Council Housing Finance will report to Ministers soon. We do not intend to publish the report but will hold a public consultation on our proposals later in the year.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279515]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department has no contracts for supplies or services with the think-tank Demos.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of letters to his Department from hon. Members' Parliamentary offices were answered within 30 days of the date of receipt in each quarter from January 2008 to March 2009. [280460]

**Mr. Malik:** The following proportion of MP correspondence cases were answered within 30 working days:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| Q1 | 83 |
| Q2 | 85 |
| Q3 | 90 |
| Q4 | 88 |
| *2009* | |
| Q1 | 82 |

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas was used (i) on his Department's and its predecessor's estate and (ii) by his Department's and its predecessor's agencies in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [280517]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for Communities and Local Government, its predecessors and its Executive agencies used the following quantities of electricity and gas each year from 2004-05:

*Electricity consumption*

| | *CLG estate* | *Executive agencies* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 10,744,962 | 15,311,717 |
| 2005-06 | 12,642,144 | 12,700,819 |
| 2006-07 | 13,018,289 | 12,889,192 |
| 2007-08 | 10,850,743 | 11,751,470 |
| 2008-09 | n/k | n/k |

*Gas consumption*

| | *CLG estate* | *Executive agencies* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 9,273,713 | 20,434,155 |
| 2005-06 | 9,339,992 | 20,740,911 |
| 2006-07 | 8,769,886 | 12,889,192 |
| 2007-08 | 6,329,978 | 18,084,384 |
| 2008-09 | n/k | n/k |

Data collation for 2008-09 is still in progress. The Department expects to complete and verify this process by September 2009.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which official is responsible for the energy efficiency of his Department's estate. [280567]

**Mr. Malik:** The official responsible for the energy efficiency of the Department for Communities and Local Government's estate is Andy Mills, Deputy Director Working Environment Division.

### Home Information Packs

**Mr. Osten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many inspections local authority trading standards officers had carried out in relation to the accuracy and completeness of personal search information contained in a home information pack on the latest date for which figures are available; [282030]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to monitor the level of enforcement action taken by trading standards officers in each local authority in relation to the accuracy and completeness of personal search information contained in home information packs. [282031]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 860W.

### Housing

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* homes and *(b)* second homes in each district. [281981]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I have placed in the Library of the House a table giving details of the total number of dwellings, and the number of dwellings registered as second homes for council tax purposes, in each billing authority in England.

### Housing: Construction

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Homes and Communities Agency debt is to be repaid as a priority under the terms of the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme. [281211]

**John Healey:** The HCA loan would be repayable to the HCA after senior debt is repaid.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of unsold new build properties. [282027]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** Information on the total number of unsold new build properties is not held centrally.

Where the Homes and Communities Agency has allocated grant for the purchase of unsold stock through its Affordable Housing Programme these figures have been provided to the hon. Member on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1115W.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of housing developments in England on which construction *(a)* has not started and *(b)* is not progressing; and if he will make a statement. [282028]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** There has been no estimate made of the number of housing developments in England on which construction has not started or is not progressing.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether tenants who have purchased equity in their houses under the Social HomeBuy scheme are liable for the maintenance costs of their houses; and what guidance is issued to purchasers in relation to liability for service charges for their property. [281646]

**John Healey:** If a social tenant buys a share in their home under Social HomeBuy, he or she is generally responsible for all the costs of maintaining it. The extent of their liability for maintenance and for service charges will be set out in their shared ownership lease prior to completion of the sale, and local authority and housing association landlords may decide to share the costs of maintaining properties sold under Social HomeBuy.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been bought through the National Clearing House scheme in each local authority area in the South West region since the scheme's inception. [281838]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The table shows the number of affordable homes by local authority in the South West for which allocations of grant were given by the Homes and Communities Agency to registered social landlords to purchase unsold developer stock in 2008-09:

| *Sponsor local authority* | *Number of units* |
|---|---|
| Bath and North East Somerset | 5 |
| Bournemouth | 36 |
| Bristol | 301 |
| Caradon | 24 |
| Carrick | 18 |
| East Dorset | 13 |
| Gloucester | 40 |
| Kennet | 52 |
| Kerrier | 20 |
| Mendip | 54 |
| Mid Devon | 27 |
| North Cornwall | 18 |
| North Devon | 40 |
| North Somerset | 150 |
| North Wiltshire | 188 |
| Plymouth | 64 |
| Purbeck | 6 |
| Restormel | 76 |
| Sedgemoor | 18 |
| South Gloucestershire | 132 |
| South Hams | 18 |
| South Somerset | 7 |
| Stroud | 43 |
| Swindon | 75 |
| Taunton Deane | 15 |
| Teignbridge | 7 |
| Tewkesbury | 10 |
| Torbay | 14 |
| Torridge | 71 |
| West Devon | 79 |
| West Dorset | 46 |
| West Somerset | 16 |
| West Wiltshire | 82 |
| Weymouth and Portland | 4 |
| Grand total | 1,769 |

### Local Government Finance: South West

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an estimate of the expenditure from the public purse incurred by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* other public sector organisations for which his Department is responsible in the South West in the last 12 months. [281268]

**Mr. Malik:** Financial information in this form is only available by financial year (April to March). Estimates of expenditure from the public purse incurred by local authorities in the South West can be extrapolated from local authority returns. Total budgeted revenue expenditure for 2008-09 is estimated to be £8,517 million. For the same period, provisional outturn capital expenditure was reported to be £1,376 million. For other public sector organisations for which this Department is responsible the best estimate of expenditure from the public purse in the South West is £523 million.

### Local Government: Public Relations

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the allocation by them of resources for the purposes of communications and public relations. [281271]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, to which statute requires all local authorities to have regard, contains specific advice on the costs of local authority publicity, reminding local authorities that they are accountable to the public for their expenditure and should aim to achieve the greatest possible cost-effectiveness.

## Local Government: Young People

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to increase levels of involvement of young people in the work of local authorities and other local public bodies for which his Department is responsible. [281272]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** My Department is facilitating a series of programmes to increase levels of involvement of young people in the work of local authorities and other public bodies.

Communities and Local Government (CLG) established 'young advisors' in 2005, with the aim of creating a pool of young people aged 15 to 21 to help local authorities and public bodies in their policy making and delivery of services. There are now 41 schemes operating across the country at a local level with around 400 trained young advisors.

We have also announced £2 million for a pilot programme to look at the way that young mayors can empower young people to take part in the local democratic process.

Finally, Communities and Local Government is supporting a programme of internships with local councillors. This programme will take place over a two year period and will provide young people with 25 hours of shadowing opportunities to help develop their understanding of local democracy.

## Mortgages: Government Assistance

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be assisted by the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* England in the next 12 months. [281692]

**John Healey:** The aim of Homeowners Mortgage Support is to prevent repossessions, where households suffer a temporary income shock. After taking money advice, homeowners apply to their lenders to join the scheme, which allows them to defer up to 70 per cent. of the interest due. The Government have published an impact assessment, which estimates how many borrowers, at UK level, could be eligible. Official figures on the number of households entering the scheme will be published later this year.

Homeowners Mortgage Support is only one form of help available to householders facing repossessions. Government have taken other steps to support households including:

- the enhanced Support for Mortgage Interest scheme to help out of work householders with interest payments;
- the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, where local authorities step in to help vulnerable households stay in their homes;
- expanding free legal advice service by increasing court desk coverage;
- new pre-action protocol in place on lenders;
- £20 million funding for local authorities to provide direct support to householder and;
- over £18 million additional funding for debt advice services.

## Non-domestic Rates: Ports

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations the Prime Minister has received on the effect of the application of retrospective business rates on firms located in ports. [281927]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Secretary of State has received recent correspondence as set out in the table from some port businesses and their representatives on the issue of retrospective business rates.

| *Date received* | *Correspondent* |
|---|---|
| 6 May 2009 | John MacIntyre, Frank Armitt and Son |
| 20 May 2009 | Louise Ellman MP, re Mersey Maritime |
| 27 May 2009 | Norman Hawkes, Leafe and Hawkes |
| 29 May 2009 | Graham Mansbridge, P & O Ferries |
| 1 June 2009 | Andy Dixon, Freshney Cargo |
| 5 June 2009 | Austin Mitchell MP re Freshney Cargo |
| 10 June 2009 | Louise Ellman MP |
| 16 June 2009 | Austin Mitchell MP |
| 16 June 2009 | Simon Leafe, Leafe and Hawkes |
| 18 June 2009 | Andy Dixon, Freshney Cargo |

## Social Rented Housing

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* single occupancy households, *(b)* two person households and *(c)* three person households housed in social sector homes with (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four or more bedrooms in the latest period for which figures are available. [282051]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The requested estimates are provided in the following table. These estimates are based on data from the 2007-08 Survey of English Housing.

*Number of people in social sector households by number of bedrooms, England, 2007-08*

| | *Number of bedrooms* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Number of people in household* | *1* | *2* | *3* | *4 or more* | *Total* |
| 1 | 962 | 443 | 231 | 15 | 1,651 |
| 2 | 188 | 473 | 386 | 15 | 1,062 |
| 3 | 19 | 223 | 288 | 16 | 546 |
| 4 or more | 8 | 159 | 449 | 90 | 705 |
| All | 1,178 | 1,297 | 1,354 | 135 | 3,964 |

*Source:*
Communities and Local Government, Survey of English Housing

## Social Rented Housing: Construction

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for funding from the £100 million fund for local authorities to build social rented housing have been received from applicants in each region. [281208]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** None. We expect to receive the first bids in early July.

### Temporary Accommodation: Costs

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average cost to local authorities of providing temporary accommodation for *(a)* single occupancy households and *(b)* families in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [282029]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Temporary Accommodation: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were in temporary accommodation in Peterborough in each of the last five years; and how long on average such households spent in such accommodation in each such year. [281955]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 843W.

### Thurrock Thameside Urban Development Corporation

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what occasions the Housing Minister and his predecessor *(a)* visited Thurrock constituency and *(b)* met the Thurrock Thameside Urban Development Corporation in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279631]

**Mr. Malik:** I was appointed Minister for the Thames Gateway and Olympics legacy on 9 June 2009. I visited Thurrock on 16 June 2009, to mark the start of works on the new Royal Opera House production park facility in Purfleet. During my visit, I met members and officers of the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation, members and officers of the council and people from the local community, as well as my hon. Friend.

My predecessors have met members and officers of the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation informally at a range of meetings including the Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership.

### Urban Areas: Regeneration

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support his Department provides to the retail sector for the encouragement of innovative town centre redevelopment. [281410]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Government are committed to helping local authorities and the retail sector encourage innovative town centre redevelopment through planning, town centre partnerships, town centre management and other town centre initiatives. These all help to provide solid foundations on which to build strong and attractive town centres.

We have put in place strong policies in Planning Policy Statement 6: "Planning for Town Centres" (PPS6) (published 2005), to allow local authorities to sustain and enhance their town centres. PPS6 asks local planning authorities to plan positively and proactively for their town centres with growth focused in existing centres in order to strengthen them and, where appropriate, regenerate them.

On 14 April 2009 we published "Looking after our town centres", a document setting out the range of powers, guidance and approaches that can help local authorities and their partners promote the vitality and viability of town centres, and explains additional steps that the Government are taking to enable further positive action to be taken, particularly through the temporary use of empty shops.

On 5 May 2009 we also published a consultation draft Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4): "Planning for Prosperous Economies" which will replace PPS6. This maintains a strong town centres first policy. Draft PPS4 reinforces the existing policy requirement for local authorities to plan proactively for their areas in partnership with business and local communities. We want authorities to identify suitable opportunities for new development, expand town centres where necessary, and address the needs of deprived areas.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Detainees

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the US administration notified his Department that it had agreed to transfer four former detainees from Guantánamo Bay to Bermuda before the transfer occurred; and if he will make a statement. [280866]

**David Miliband:** The former detainees arrived in Bermuda early on 11 June 2009. The US Administration notified our embassy in Washington of the transfer a few hours earlier.

### China: British Nationality

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals are living in the People's Republic of China. [282295]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not able to record the total number of British nationals resident in China. Based on figures held by the Public Security Bureaux in China where resident British nationals need to register, we estimate there are approximately 15,000 British nationals living in mainland China and 265,000 in Hong Kong.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281042]

**Chris Bryant:** In 2006-07 total carbon emissions from air travel originating in the UK by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff were 14,727 tonnes of $CO_2$ emissions ($CO_2e$) equating to 3.8 tonnes of $CO_2e$ per full-time equivalent (FTE) member of staff. In 2007-08 emissions from air travel originating in the UK by FCO staff were 12,874 tonnes $CO_2e$ equating to 3.4 tonnes per FTE.

### Departmental Cleaning Services

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which organisations provided cleaning services to his Department in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each such contract was in each such year. [280760]

**Chris Bryant:** Over the last three years cleaning services have been provided to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by the following contractors at the indicated cost.

| | *Contractor* | *£* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | Emprise | 1,324,684.40 |
| 2007-08 | Emprise | 1,416,941.20 |
| 2008-09 | Emprise (to 31 November 2008) | 1,033,477.50 |
| | Interserve FM (from 1 December 2008) | 504,539.00 |

### Departmental Electricity

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280933]

**Chris Bryant:** In 2006-07 the percentage of electricity derived from renewable sources for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK Estate, including Wilton Park, was 32.7 per cent. In 2007-08 this figure was 30 per cent.

### Departmental Resignations

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of staff have resigned from his Department in each year since 2001. [281709]

**Chris Bryant:** The number of UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services (FCOS) who resigned in each of the last five years was:

| | *FCO* | *FCOS* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 69 | 20 |
| 2005-06 | 94 | 3 |
| 2006-07 | 100 | 1 |
| 2007-08 | 93 | 10 |
| 2008-09 | 77 | 2 |

We do not hold records of resignations before 2004.

These figures do not include staff who took early retirement (with compensation) as a result of restructuring programmes.

### Departmental Work Experience

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281517]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) takes part in the Cabinet Office run Summer Development Programme and Summer Placement Scheme for undergraduates and graduates. In 2009 we awarded 10 paid placements to candidates from ethnic minority and disabled backgrounds. There are currently no centrally organised, unpaid, graduate internship programmes in the FCO.

### Diplomatic Service: Gifts and Endowments

**Mr. Breed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department issues to envoys appointed by the Prime Minister on the acceptance of *(a)* payments, *(b)* gifts, *(c)* rewards and *(d)* other emoluments from (i) non-governmental agencies and (ii) foreign governments. [281711]

**Chris Bryant:** Part-time special envoys appointed by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister offer their services and expertise on a voluntary basis. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not employ them or offer contractual terms to them. We reimburse relevant expenses when envoys undertake visits or engagements at our request.

Political appointments made by the Prime Minister to high commissioner posts are subject to the civil service code, like all FCO members of staff. As such they may not accept benefits of any kind from a third party, which might reasonably be seen to compromise their personal judgement or integrity. We insist that staff observe the highest standards of propriety, avoid any perceived conflict of interest and refuse all gifts, unless they are of insignificant value.

### Eritrea: Human Rights

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Government last made representations to the government of Eritrea on human rights issues. [281353]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK raises human rights issues with the Eritrean Government both in Asmara and with the Eritrean Ambassador to London on a regular basis, highlighting the amount of public and parliamentary interest we receive. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised human rights with the Eritrean Ambassador at the end of last year.

We also discuss human rights as part of the EU via the Article 8 Political Dialogue. EU Heads of Mission produced a human rights report at the end of January to discuss with the Government of Eritrea. Unfortunately, since initial discussions earlier this year the Government of Eritrea has twice refused to have human rights

included on the Article 8 Dialogue agenda for discussion. We will raise our disappointment, as part of EU Heads of Mission, at the Eritrean Government's reluctance to return to human rights issues as part of the planned Article 8 Political Dialogue when EU Heads of Mission and representatives of the Eritrean Government next meet on 23 June 2009.

We will continue to press to get human rights discussions back on the Article 8 Dialogue agenda.

### European Anti-Fraud Office

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases the European Anti-Fraud Office has investigated since its inception; and how many investigations have resulted in one or more convictions. [277098]

**Chris Bryant:** Information on the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)'s operations can be found in its annual reports.

OLAF's most recent operations report states that

'A total of 67 actions corresponding to 20 decisions were undertaken for the protection of the EC's financial interests. A significant proportion of these actions resulted in imprisonments (24). The three other most frequent actions were financial penalties (19), suspended sentences (18) and damages (5). No suspects were acquitted in 2007'

OLAF will also have referred cases to national prosecutors that national authorities may then have taken action on independently.

The full report can be found on OLAF's website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud/reports/olaf/2007/en.pdf

Reports for previous years' operations can also be found on the OLAF website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud/reports/olaf_en.html

### European Commission

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the merits of holding national elections to determine the UK's European Commissioner. [281429]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** European Commissioners are required to be:

"independent in the performance of their duties"

not taking:

"instructions from any Government or other institution, body, office or entity".

Any Commissioner put forward can have no given mandate from the UK.

### HMS Poseidon

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the alleged secret salvaging by China of the HMS Poseidon submarine lost in a peacetime accident in 1931; what information he has received on the disposal of human remains allegedly recovered by China; what contact his Department has had with the families of the crew members who died; and what representations he proposes to make on the subject to the Chinese government. [281405]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* We are aware of reports that the submarine HMS Poseidon was salvaged in 1972. We have sought clarification from the Chinese authorities, and await their reply.

### International Renewable Energy Agency

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with his counterpart in *(a)* Germany, *(b)* Austria, *(c)* Denmark and *(d)* the United Arab Emirates on their bids to host the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency. [281424]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) with the German, Austrian or Danish Foreign Ministers. He has discussed the issue with the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates and the German Environment Minister. He stressed with both that, as the UK was not a member of IRENA and so had no voting rights, the UK would not take a formal position on where the headquarters should be situated.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with counterparts in *(a)* Canada, *(b)* China, *(c)* Japan, *(d)* India, *(e)* Brazil, *(f)* Australia and *(g)* the US regarding membership of the International Renewable Energy Agency. [281425]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with counterparts in these countries concerning the International Renewable Energy Agency.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has lead responsibility for our policy towards renewable energy. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was set up by the German Government in January 2009 and now has around 100 member governments. Mandated by these governments worldwide, IRENA aspires to become the main driving force for promoting a rapid transition towards the widespread and sustainable use of renewable energy on a global scale. The UK (DECC) have now confirmed that they will sign-up to IRENA; this should happen this week.

### Laos: Prisoners

**Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make further representations to the Lao government about the welfare and political status of the prisoners Thao Mua, Pa Fue Khang, Thonpaseuth Keuakoun, Seng-Aloun Phengphanh and Bouavanh Chanhmanivong. [281507]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Our embassy in Bangkok, which is accredited to Laos, asked the Lao authorities on 15 May 2009 and again on 21 May 2009 for an update on the current situation of these prisoners. The Lao authorities have however responded saying that they are unable to provide any additional information to that supplied in 2008 concerning these men.

We will continue to raise our concerns with the relevant Lao authorities whenever the opportunity arises.

**Pakistan: Ethnic Groups**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Pakistan on the treatment of minorities in that country. [281355]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron), visited Pakistan in February 2009 and met the Pakistani Minister for Human Rights, Mumtaz Gilani and the Minister for Minority Affairs, Shahbaz Bhatti. During these meetings, she pressed for more action to protect the rights of minorities in Pakistan. My hon. Friend also called for a review of Pakistan's blasphemy laws, which are frequently abused and lead to significant discrimination against minorities.

Bilaterally and with our EU partners we continue to call upon the Government of Pakistan to promote the concept of freedom of religion and belief and to initiate early reform of the discriminatory blasphemy legislation.

In the course of their duties, officials at our high commission in Islamabad regularly meet with members of the Government of Pakistan to discuss the human rights situation in Pakistan.

**Royal Visits**

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on clothing for official visits overseas by members of the Royal Family in 2008-09. [281482]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not pay clothing costs for members of the Royal Family on official overseas travel.

**Somalia: Piracy**

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1425W, when the next meeting of Working Group 1 of the Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia will be; and what matters will be discussed at the meeting. [280684]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Working Group 1 met informally on 10 June 2009 in the margins of the Seoul High-Level Meeting on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. It discussed regional capability development priorities with the representatives of regional countries and other international partners. The next formal meeting is planned to take place in London on 10 July 2009. The meeting is likely again to focus predominantly on regional capability development needs and priorities, although an agenda is yet to be finalised.

**Sudan: Peace Negotiations**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan, with particular reference to the forthcoming *(a)* elections in Sudan and *(b)* referendum on the future of South Sudan. [281352]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is the foundation for future peace and stability across Sudan. With only two years before the end of the interim period, we remain concerned at the number of outstanding CPA issues, including preparations for elections and referenda. We welcome the CPA conference in Washington on 23 June 2009 which will bring together both North and South and the international community to tackle these issues.

We welcome the National Election Commission's plans for elections in February 2010, although we are concerned that preparations are behind schedule. There are major challenges which must be addressed, including ensuring necessary legislation, such as the security and press acts, is appropriate. The UK will be providing significant assistance and we are working with the Sudanese and the international community to ensure peaceful and credible elections are held.

The UK remains completely committed to fair and credible referenda on self-determination, both for Abyei and the South, as defined in the CPA. The referendum bill is currently being discussed in the Sudanese parliament. We urge both sides to reach agreement quickly on the bill to allow preparations for the referenda to begin.

**Turks and Caicos Islands**

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the final report of the Commission of Inquiry on the Turks and Caicos Islands to be published; what timetable he has set for responding to that report; and if he will make a statement. [281905]

**Chris Bryant:** I hope to make a statement to the House on the Commission of Inquiry's final report shortly, explaining when the Governor intends to publish the report and the action necessary.

**Uganda: Armed Conflict**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on progress on peace negotiations between the Lord's Resistance Army and the government of Uganda. [281354]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) agreed a peace settlement, the Final Peace Agreement (FPA), in April 2008 after almost two years of negotiations mediated by the Government of Southern Sudan. The leader of the LRA, Joseph Kony, refused to sign the FPA, most recently in November 2008, in the absence of a guarantee of immunity from prosecution at the International Criminal Court. LRA activity in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Southern Sudan, including abductions and attacks on civilians, have continued in the interim.

The Governments of Uganda, the DRC and the Government of Southern Sudan began joint military action against the LRA in December 2008. The Government of Uganda has stated that it remains

committed to the FPA but is not prepared to re-open negotiation of the terms of the agreement with the LRA. There are no negotiations currently in train.

### Zimbabwe

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries on the political situation in Zimbabwe; and what assessment he has made of the proposal to convene a SADC extraordinary summit to discuss the matter. [280635]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed Zimbabwe with his then South African counterpart, Mrs. Dlamini-Zuma, at a meeting in London on 6 March 2009. My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown is in regular contact with Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries on Zimbabwe, most recently in the margins of the World Economic Forum meeting in Cape Town on 11 June 2009.

SADC, as a guarantor of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) conducted as the Inclusive Government was formed, has a key role to play in ensuring compliance with its provisions. How to respond to any specific appeal that it may have received from the Movement for Democratic Change is clearly a matter for SADC itself, though we would hope that it would do so resolutely.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Postal Votes

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the merits of the use of a standard form of ballot paper for postal voting in elections. [282085]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it is currently developing a set of UK-wide standards on the accessibility, design and usability of ballot papers and associated stationery including postal voting materials. The Commission will publish its standards in autumn 2009.

### Postal Votes: Lancashire

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what information the Electoral Commission holds on the proportion of postal votes spoiled in each ward in Lancashire County Council in the 2009 county council elections. [282084]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it is not possible to provide information about the proportion of postal votes which are spoiled, because ballot papers which have been returned by post are mixed with ballot papers from polling stations before they are counted.

The table provides information on the proportion of ballot papers counted in each division of Lancashire county council at the 2009 elections which were deemed to have been spoiled. Returning officers are not required to report information about the proportion of returned postal votes which were rejected because of a missing or incomplete postal voting statement until 25 days after polling day. The Commission will include an analysis of rejected postal votes in its report on the June 2009 elections in October 2009.

| *Division* | *Proportion (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| Accrington North | 2.6 |
| Accrington South | 0.5 |
| Accrington West | 3.1 |
| Amounderness | 1.1 |
| Bamber Bridge and Walton-le-Dale | 1.7 |
| Brierfield and Nelson North | 1.8 |
| Burnley Central East | 0.7 |
| Burnley Central West | 0.6 |
| Burnley North East | 0.5 |
| Burnley Rural | 0.7 |
| Burnley South West | 2.3 |
| Chorley East | 0.5 |
| Chorley North | 0.5 |
| Chorley Rural East | 1.3 |
| Chorley Rural North | 1.2 |
| Chorley Rural West | 2.6 |
| Chorley South | 1.7 |
| Chorley West | 3.5 |
| Clitheroe | 1.8 |
| Farington | 1.3 |
| Fleetwood East | 0.5 |
| Fleetwood West | 0.6 |
| Fylde East | 0.6 |
| Fylde South | 0.5 |
| Fylde West | 0.3 |
| Garstang | 0.5 |
| Great Harwood | 0.9 |
| Heysham | 0.7 |
| Lancaster Central | 0.4 |
| Lancaster East | 1.0 |
| Lancaster Rural East | 0.6 |
| Lancaster Rural North | 0.6 |
| Lancaster South East | 0.4 |
| Leyland Central | 1.2 |
| Leyland South West | 1.5 |
| Longridge with Bowland | 1.1 |
| Lytham | 0.5 |
| Morecambe North | 1.3 |
| Morecambe South | 0.9 |
| Morecambe West | 1.1 |
| Nelson South | 0.4 |
| Ormskirk West | 0.0 |
| Oswaldtwistle | 3.3 |
| Padiham and Burnley West | 0.7 |
| Pendle Central | 0.5 |
| Pendle East | 0.2 |
| Pendle West | 0.5 |
| Penwortham North | 0.6 |
| Penwortham South | 2.2 |
| Poulton-le-Fylde | 0.6 |
| Preston Central North | 0.4 |

| Division | Proportion (percentage) |
|---|---|
| Preston Central South | 0.8 |
| Preston City | 0.8 |
| Preston East | 0.7 |
| Preston North | 1.0 |
| Preston North East | 0.7 |
| Preston North West | 1.6 |
| Preston Rural | 0.6 |
| Preston South East | 1.2 |
| Preston West | 1.0 |
| Ribble Valley North East | 0.8 |
| Ribble Valley South West | 0.6 |
| Rishton and Clayton-le-Moors | 2.4 |
| Rossendale East | 0.4 |
| Rossendale North | 0.6 |
| Rossendale South | 1.9 |
| Rossendale West | 0.6 |
| Skelmersdale Central | 0.7 |
| Skelmersdale East | 1.2 |
| Skelmersdale West | 0.6 |
| Skerton | 0.6 |
| South Ribble Rural East | 1.8 |
| South Ribble Rural West | 0.4 |
| St. Annes North | 0.4 |
| St. Annes South | 0.4 |
| Thornton Cleveleys Central | 0.6 |
| Thornton Cleveleys North | 0.7 |
| West Craven | 0.5 |
| West Lancashire East | 0.9 |
| West Lancashire North | 0.9 |
| West Lancashire South | 1.1 |
| West Lancashire West | 0.3 |
| Whitworth | 0.8 |
| Wyreside | 0.9 |

## CABINET OFFICE

### Cancer

**John Howell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of cancer have been diagnosed in *(a)* England and *(b)* each ward of Henley constituency in each year since 2000. [281174]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of cancer have been diagnosed in (a) England and (b) each ward of Henley constituency in each year since 2000 [281174].

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of cancer for the years 2000 to 2006 for (a) England and for (b) each ward of Henley constituency are in Table 1.

*Table 1: Registration of newly diagnosed cases of cancer[1]: England, and each ward[2] of Henley parliamentary constituency, 2000 to 2006*

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 229,339 | 232,575 | 230,208 | 234,434 | 239,273 | 241,974 | 242,184 |
| Henley constituency | 434 | 469 | 450 | 458 | 458 | 480 | 466 |
| *Wards of Henley constituency* | | | | | | | |
| Aston Rowant | 13 | 11 | 5 | 11 | 13 | 10 | 12 |
| Benson | 26 | 22 | 25 | 25 | 18 | 24 | 22 |
| Berinsfield | 13 | 30 | 21 | 28 | 35 | 26 | 38 |
| Chalgrove | 11 | 13 | 12 | 15 | 14 | 5 | 12 |
| Chiltern Woods | 19 | 15 | 17 | 11 | 20 | 17 | 10 |
| Chinnor | 35 | 30 | 23 | 29 | 30 | 32 | 26 |
| Crowmarsh | 12 | 7 | 6 | 15 | 17 | 6 | 13 |
| Forest Hill and Holton | 13 | 19 | 15 | 17 | 10 | 25 | 10 |
| Garsington | 21 | 19 | 12 | 16 | 6 | 12 | 20 |
| Goring | 30 | 39 | 35 | 40 | 24 | 51 | 36 |
| Great Milton | 12 | 25 | 14 | 22 | 13 | 11 | 12 |
| Henley North | 37 | 26 | 35 | 35 | 37 | 41 | 22 |
| Henley South | 30 | 32 | 32 | 31 | 36 | 34 | 36 |
| Sanford | 9 | 23 | 17 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 22 |
| Shiplake | 29 | 24 | 30 | 25 | 37 | 16 | 26 |
| Sonning Common | 22 | 31 | 34 | 26 | 21 | 33 | 27 |
| Thame North | 19 | 23 | 13 | 19 | 26 | 21 | 24 |
| Thame South | 21 | 16 | 22 | 22 | 28 | 25 | 30 |
| Watlington | 27 | 24 | 34 | 26 | 20 | 24 | 29 |
| Wheatly | 25 | 29 | 36 | 25 | 29 | 37 | 29 |
| Woodcote | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 11 | 17 | 10 |

[1] All cancers, coded to C00-C97 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (C44).

[2] Both the parliamentary constituency and the wards are based on boundaries as of 2008.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 244W, on Ministerial policy advisers, how much was spent on severance payments to special advisers in each year prior to 2007-08 for which records are held. [241896]

**Angela E. Smith:** Since 2002-03, the Government have published information about the numbers and cost of special advisers, including the cost of severance payments. The total cost of severance payments to special advisers in each year from 2002-03 to 2006-07 is set out as follows.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 92,686 |
| 2003-04 | 85,329 |
| 2004-05 | 78,624 |
| 2005-06 | 955,895 |
| 2006-07 | 171,521 |

As has been the practice of successive administrations, severance payments to special advisers are made in line with the contractual provisions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers".

### Departmental Security

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many members of the Cabinet Office's security staff have *(a)* been suspended, *(b)* been dismissed and *(c)* resigned in the last eight months; and for what reasons in each case. [275267]

**Angela E. Smith:** It is Cabinet Office policy not to provide information which risks identifying individual members of staff.

### Government Departments: ICT

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of computers in Government departments run *(a)* Microsoft Office software, *(b)* Open Office software and *(c)* other open source office software. [282045]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested is not held centrally and could not be collected without disproportionate cost.

### Non-Departmental Public Bodies

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many non-departmental public bodies have been *(a)* established and *(b)* abolished since May 1997. [281499]

**Angela E. Smith:** Information on non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is published in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" report. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House. "Public Bodies" 2008 reports that the total number of NDPBs fell by around 8 per cent. since 1997—from 857 to 790 in 2008.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the number of apprenticeships, with particular reference to apprenticeships within the automotive industry. [279355]

**Kevin Brennan:** This Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families currently fund Apprenticeships for adults and young people in a number of occupations in the automotive industry in England. Apprenticeships will play a key role in our response to the current economic downturn. Earlier in the year my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a £140 million package to provide an extra 35,000 Apprenticeship places over the coming year in both the public and private sectors to help boost the country's competitiveness.

Last month we announced that businesses across the country with a proven track record of delivering Apprenticeships would share £11 million to create 3,000 new places by employing apprentices over and above the number they already employ. This will help these businesses support smaller companies in their supply chains. Companies benefiting from this funding include: Scania; Daf Trucks; Ford; BMW; Mercedes Benz; and Jaguar Land Rover.

Looking to the future, we have set ambitious targets for the growth of the Apprenticeships programme. Apprenticeships provisions are being taken forward as part of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, including provisions to ensure that an Apprenticeship place is available for all suitably qualified young people by 2013.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were awarded to individuals subsequently discovered to be illegal immigrants in the last year for which figures are available. [280081]

**Kevin Brennan:** All apprentices must be entitled to work in the UK in order to take up an apprenticeship and, as with any employment, it is the employer's responsibility to check all prospective employees' entitlement to work in the UK, or they risk breaking the law.

Neither this Department nor the UK Border Agency collect information of this nature, therefore no figures are available.

### Apprentices: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point commenced level 2 apprenticeships in each of the last five years. [279037]

**Kevin Brennan:** Table 1 shows the number of Level 2 apprenticeship starts in both Essex local authority and Castle Point parliamentary constituency for each of the last five academic years.

*Table 1: Apprenticeship Starts*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Castle Point | 220 | 220 | 220 | 210 | 250 |
| Essex | 3,200 | 3,000 | 2,900 | 3,100 | 3,600 |

*Notes:*
1. Area is based on learner's home postcode.
2. Figures for parliamentary constituency have been rounded to the nearest 10, figures for local authority have been rounded to the nearest 100.

*Source:*
Work-Based Learning ILR

### Apprentices: Local Government

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 599W, on apprentices: local government, how many *(a)* apprentices and *(b)* advanced apprentices are employed by each local authority. [278874]

**Kevin Brennan:** We do not hold centrally data on the number of apprentices employed by each local authority. The Government are committed to developing and expanding apprenticeships in the public sector and earlier this year Cabinet colleagues announced plans for the expansion of the apprenticeships scheme across the public sector. We announced a £140 million package to deliver 35,000 extra places this year of which 21,000 would be in the public sector.

### Apprentices: Public Sector

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many public sector apprenticeships have been started in *(a)* Stockport and *(b)* Tameside local authority area since 2005. [279768]

**Kevin Brennan:** We do not hold centrally data on the number of apprentices employed by each local authority. The Government are committed to developing and expanding apprenticeships in the public sector and earlier this year Cabinet colleagues announced plans for the expansion of the apprenticeships scheme across the public sector. We announced a £140 million package to deliver 35,000 extra places this year of which 21,000 would be in the public sector.

### Building Colleges for the Future Programme

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons the Learning and Skills Council has not taken decisions on colleges' capital programme in accordance with its originally planned timetable; and if he will make a statement. [279662]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 17 June 2009]:* As set out by the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) acting chief executive, Geoff Russell, in his letter of 2 June, many more colleges have put forward a case for their projects to be considered as shovel ready than expected, and so unfortunately the LSC was not in a position to ask its June Council to approve individual projects.

Mr. Russell has, however, stated that an announcement will be made by the end of this month as to which projects will go through to the next stage of the prioritisation process.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria the Learning and Skills Council uses to determine which further education colleges receive funding for building projects from the £300 million capital fund announced in Budget 2009. [280710]

**Kevin Brennan:** In line with Sir Andrew Foster's recommendations, the Learning and Skills Council consulted on the best approach to prioritise projects.

The first stage of prioritisation will be 'readiness'. Projects which pass through the readiness gateway will then be assessed against the other following prioritisation criteria:

Education and skills impact
Contribution to local economic and regeneration priorities
Co-dependency with 3rd parties
Condition of estate
Value for money

We expect to announce which projects will be taken forward during this spending review period in the summer.

### Education: Procurement

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to promote the uptake of collaborative procurement strategies within universities and further education colleges, as recommended in HM Treasury's May 2009 review, Operational Efficiency Programme: collaborative procurement. [279714]

**Mr. Lammy:** As part of our drive to ensure value for money, we have worked through our key delivery partners to support higher education institutions and further education colleges in delivering greater efficiencies. That includes using consortia at local, regional and national level to procure goods and services collaboratively. This has already been successful over a number of years. Further Education Colleges have already made savings of over £70 million and Higher Education Institutions delivered efficiencies of over £100 million as a result of improvements in procurement. We will continue to promote the benefits of collaborative procurement, while respecting the independence of individual institutions.

### Further Education: North Yorkshire

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on students in North Yorkshire of the recent changes to the budget of the Learning and Skills Council. [278949]

**Kevin Brennan:** Students in North Yorkshire and elsewhere have already benefited from the increase in investment for further education of 53 per cent. in real terms since 1997. Recent changes which will affect LSC budgets were announced in Budget 2009. The Budget made available an additional £300 million of further education capital spending and £122 million to support

extra training in England for young people who have been unemployed for 12 months. As part of DCSF-funded activity, there will be £655 million to support over 54,000 more young people to take up a guaranteed place at school or college. As part of Budget 2009, the Government committed to delivering an additional £5 billion of efficiency savings in 2010-11. The then Secretary of State for DIUS wrote to the LSC on 7 May setting out expectations on the contribution to those efficiencies from post-19 further education provision. Taking into account these changes, the LSC will see an estimated overall increase in resources for frontline teaching, learning and learner support services for post-19 learners of around £140 million between 2009-10 and 2010-11. We expect learners in North Yorkshire to benefit from these changes. Funding allocations for 2009-10 post-19 provision are currently being finalised and will be completed later this month.

### Gambling: Competition

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from UK leisure and gaming businesses on the *(a)* level of competition in the online gambling sector in the EU and *(b)* effects on them of differences between the regulatory systems operated by individual EU member states in relation to online gambling. [280144]

**Kevin Brennan:** This Department has not received any such recent representations from the UK leisure and gaming businesses.

### Higher Education: Cambridgeshire

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students resident in North West Cambridgeshire constituency were in higher education in each of the last 10 years. [281160]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the following table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

*Enrolments[1] from North West Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency[2] UK higher education institutions—Academic years 1998/99 to 2007/08*

| *Academic year* | *North West Cambridgeshire enrolments* |
|---|---|
| 1998/99 | 2,250 |
| 1999/2000 | 2,380 |
| 2000/01 | 2,390 |
| 2001/02 | 2,515 |
| 2002/03 | 2,510 |
| 2003/04 | 2,850 |
| 2004/05 | 2,965 |
| 2005/06 | 2,985 |
| 2006/07 | 2,740 |
| 2007/08 | 2,930 |

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.
[2] Parliamentary constituency is defined by full and valid home postcodes recorded on the HESA student record.
*Note:*
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

### Higher Education: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students resident in Peterborough constituency were in higher education in each of the last 10 years. [281670]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

*Enrolments[1] from Peterborough parliamentary constituency[2] UK higher education institutions academic years 1998/99 to 2007/08*

| *Academic year* | *Peterborough enrolments* |
|---|---|
| 1998/99 | 2,015 |
| 1999/2000 | 2,090 |
| 2000/01 | 2,120 |
| 2001/02 | 2,130 |
| 2002/03 | 2,080 |
| 2003/04 | 2,255 |
| 2004/05 | 2,350 |
| 2005/06 | 2,290 |
| 2006/07 | 2,195 |
| 2007/08 | 2,310 |

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.
[2] Parliamentary constituency is defined by full and valid home postcodes recorded on the HESA student record.
*Note:*
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

### Jaguar Land Rover

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to conclude his discussions with Jaguar Land Rover on loan guarantees from the Automotive Assistance Programme; and if he will make a statement. [280593]

**Ian Lucas:** The Department is actively pursuing this issue with Jaguar Land Rover's parent Tata Motors as a priority with a view to reaching a conclusion as soon as possible.

### Learning and Skills Council: Consultants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Learning and Skills Council has spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [279381]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department does not hold this level of information. The Learning and Skills Council makes decisions about the employment of consultants based upon its own business needs. Geoff Russell, the Council's acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with further information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Learning and Skills Council: Finance

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria are used by the Learning and Skills Council to allocate funding to local authorities. [280168]

**Kevin Brennan:** Where local authorities are providers in their own right, they will receive a funding allocation from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to deliver provision in line with funding allocated to all other providers.

Funding allocations for adult learner responsive (ALR) and employer responsive (ER) provision are calculated according to a national funding formula. This formula calculates funding using the volume of learning that the provider delivers at an agreed national funding rate. The formula also takes account of factors specific to the provider—such as the curriculum that it offers, and the proportion of students coming from areas of disadvantage.

Local authorities deliver the majority of the £210 million that is safeguarded annually for informal adult learning. This learning is not formula-funded, but is commissioned through a negotiated process with each local authority. It is a block grant to deliver an agreed volume of provision. The LSC uses final outturn data returns for previous years and in-year estimate data in order to agree learner numbers to be funded for the following year.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much funding was allocated to local authorities through the Learning and Skills Council as part of the most recent Comprehensive Spending Review over the period of the review; [280169]

(2) how much funding has been allocated to local authorities through the Learning and Skills Council for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [280170]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) allocates funding to learning providers—including school sixth forms, FE colleges, independent providers and local authorities—where those providers are approved to deliver publicly-funded further education and skills for learners aged 16 or over. Funding is allocated in respect of an academic year, but the actual amounts paid will depend on demand from individuals and employers.

Funding allocations data for all LSC-funded providers are available on the LSC website:

www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy/allocations

These data show that in 2007/08 academic year, over £410 million was allocated to local authorities; the allocation in 2008/09 was over £370 million. Allocations for 2009/10 are still being finalised.

The majority of the £210 million that is safeguarded annually for informal adult learning is delivered through local authorities, and therefore comprises a significant proportion of their funding allocations (around £200 million a year over 2007/08 and 2008/09 academic years). The rest of the funding they receive supports adult learner responsive provision as well as training in the workplace (Train to Gain and apprenticeships) for both adults and young people.

### Learning and Skills Council: Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Learning and Skills Council office in each of the last five years. [280319]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department does not hold this level of information. Geoff Russell, the Learning and Skills Council acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information he has requested. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Local Press

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable the Office of Fair Trading has set for its review of local newspapers. [278599]

**Kevin Brennan:** Following its review of the local media merger regime, the OFT submitted a summary of its findings and recommendations to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for it to consider as part of the Digital Britain report. These findings and recommendations, and the OFT's full report, will be published alongside the final Digital Britain report shortly.

### Overseas Students: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of overseas student *(a)* fees and *(b)* spending to the economy. [281393]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* The latest estimates, taken from the "Global Value" report published by the British Council in September 2007, are that international students in further and higher education were estimated to contribute £2.2 billion in tuition fees and £3.1 billion in other spending in 2003-04. Tuition and other spending in relation to students on English language courses was estimated at £1.1 billion.

### Personal Care Services: Training

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department funds training programmes which provide skills relevant to the beauty treatment and tanning sector; and if he will make a statement. [280079]

**Kevin Brennan:** Funding for further education and skills is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not hold a comprehensive database of learning aims that are eligible for LSC funding; this falls within

the remit of the LSC. Beauty therapy is one of the learning aims that are eligible for LSC funding, and a variety of courses fall within the beauty therapy framework.

The LSC agrees indicative budgets with colleges and providers prior to the start of the academic year based on the expected delivery of an overall volume of learning. The actual funding paid will depend on the choice of learning area made by employers and learners. As funding is not allocated at an individual course level, details of the amount made available to support specific qualifications in this sector are not held centrally in the Department.

**Steel: Prices**

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if the Secretary of State will make it his policy to support small businesses affected by the changes in the price of steel. [264870]

**Ian Lucas:** Due a significant fall in demand, steel prices have dropped sharply from the peaks seen in the summer of 2008. Changes in prices are the natural consequence of market forces and as such it would not be right for the Government to interfere in the market in any way. However, if there was firm evidence that anti-competitive or unfair trade practices were the cause then we would press the European Commission to take action.

Since the start of the year the Government have introduced a range of measures to help increase liquidity and ease credit conditions for small businesses. This is real help that is focused and funded. It is help that has only been made possible due to the fiscal stimulus offered by the Government in the PBR. We have recapitalised the banks, agreed to underwrite more than £20 billion worth of credit lines and lending and tailored a package of bank measures—including a new £50 billion Bank of England facility for purchasing high quality assets—to get bad assets out into the daylight and help lending flow again.

**Students: Finance**

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on students in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point of the recent changes to the budget of the Learning and Skills Council. [280229]

**Kevin Brennan:** Students in Essex and elsewhere have already benefited from the increase in investment for further education of 53 per cent. in real terms since 1997. Recent changes which will affect LSC budgets were announced in Budget 2009. The Budget made available an additional £300 million of further education capital spending and £122 million to support extra training in England for young people who have been unemployed for 12 months. As part of DCSF-funded activity, there will be £655 million to support over 54,000 more young people to take up a guaranteed place at school or college. As part of Budget 2009, the Government committed to delivering an additional £5 billion of efficiency savings in 2010-11. The then Secretary of State for DIUS wrote to the LSC on 7 May setting out expectations on the contribution to those efficiencies from post-19 further education provision. Taking into account these changes, the LSC will see an estimated overall increase in resources for frontline teaching, learning and learner support services for post-19 learners of around £140 million between 2009-10 and 2010-11. We expect students in Essex and the Castle Point area to benefit from this increase. Funding allocations for 2009/10 post-19 provision are currently being finalised and will be completed later this month.

**Students: Loans**

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received a career development loan to train to become (i) a driving instructor and (ii) a teacher in each of the last five years. [258054]

**Mr. Simon:** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) administer Career Development Loans (CDLs) on behalf of the Department. Details of the number of loans awarded for approved driver instructor and teacher training courses for the last five years are set out in the following tables. Information on the number of loans applied for is not collected.

Courses undertaken using a CDL are the personal choice of the individual taking out the loan. Changes in annual numbers undertaking any particular type of course, such as driving instruction, are a reflection of changing trends in individual career aspirations of those applying for loans.

*Approved driving instructor courses*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 327 |
| 2006-07 | 759 |
| 2005-06 | 1,756 |
| 2004-05 | 2,327 |
| 2003-04 | 3,242 |

*Teacher training courses—post graduate certificate in education*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 5 |
| 2005-06 | 5 |
| 2004-05 | 11 |
| 2003-04 | 4 |

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

**Absenteeism: Peterborough**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents in Peterborough have appeared in court on charges related to the unauthorised absence from school of their child in the last (i) six, (ii) 12 and (iii) 24 months. [281685]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Ministry of Justice collects and publishes data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school; and for prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly. It is

possible, because of the way courts record data, that some section 444 data is also collected under the more general heading of various offences under the Education Act 1996.

The Ministry of Justice collects prosecution data on the basis of police force areas only and not local authority area. Cambridgeshire police force area covers Peterborough and the number of parents prosecuted for failing to secure their children's regular school attendance between 2006 to 2007 (latest available data) is detailed in the following table. Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences under the Education Act 1996 S.444[1], in Cambridgeshire police force area, 2006 07[2,3]*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 40 |
| 2007 | 44 |

[1] Includes the following:
(a) Failure to secure regular attendance at school. (Education Act 1996 S.444 (1)(8)).
(b) Parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school. (Education Act 1996 S.444(8)(1a)(8a) added by Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.72).
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

## Apprentices: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hours a week on average 16 to 18 year-olds spent on apprenticeships in each industrial sector in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in the latest period for which figures are available. [280452]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Apprenticeships for young people are normally full-time and the hours that each individual spends on their framework each week are a matter for the apprentice and their employer. Some apprentices work part-time. Information about the number of hours that apprentices work and train each week is not collected centrally. We have recently consulted on a Specification for Apprenticeship Standards in England including a proposal to set a minimum number of guided learning hours per year for all apprentices. Following consideration of the responses, we expect to publish the Specification for Apprenticeship Standards in England in August.

## Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost was of each Building Schools for the Future project completed in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [279322]

**Mr. Coaker:** A total of 44 school projects (of which three were primary schools procured through the Newcastle local education partnership) were completed in the calendar year 2008, each benefiting from investment as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. The table shows the level of capital funding provided to each school project. Local authorities may have supplemented this with additional funding from other sources. Commercially sensitive actual cost data is held on the Partnerships for Schools cost benchmarking database, but release of project-level data may prejudice future public sector negotiations with the private sector.

| *Local authority* | *School* | *Capital funding (including ICT) (£ million)* | *New build/ refurb* | *Notes* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lambeth | Park Campus | 6.2 | New build | — |
| Newcastle | Kenton School | 2.8 | ICT only | BSF funding for ICT only |
| Solihull | Park Hall School | 24.4 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Sheffield | Yewlands Technology College | 16.8 | Refurb (two phases) | — |
| Solihull | Archbishop Grimshaw Catholic School | 24.5 | New build | — |
| Derby City | Sinfin Community School | 16.5 | New build | BSF One School Pathfinder |
| Cornwall | Penryn College | 22.8 | New build | BSF One School Pathfinder |
| South Tyneside and Gateshead | Kings Meadow School | 1.3 | ICT only | BSF funding for ICT only |
| Leeds | Cockburn College of Arts | 17.0 | New build | — |
| Bradford | Titus Salt School | 23.0 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Bradford | Tong High School | 24.8 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Bradford | Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College | 27.9 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Bristol | Brislington Enterprise College | 32.9 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Lancashire | Thomas Whitham Sixth Form, Burnley Campus | 15.4 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Lancashire | Pendle Vale College, Pendle Vale Campus | 8.4 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Lancashire | Pendle Community High School, Pendle Vale Campus | 19.0 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Lancashire | Shuttleworth College | 18.9 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Leeds | Allerton High School | 21.5 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Leeds | Pudsey Grangefield School | 21.1 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Leeds | Rodillian School | 23.2 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Leeds | Temple Moor High School | 13.6 | New build | — |
| Manchester | Newall Green High School | 15.9 | New build and refurb | — |
| Manchester | Cedar Mount High School, Gorton Education Village | 16.4 | New build and refurb | — |
| Manchester | Melland High School, Gorton Education Village | 9.7 | New build | — |

| Local authority | School | Capital funding (including ICT) (£ million) | New build/ refurb | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manchester | St. Paul's School | 15.7 | New build and refurb | — |
| Newcastle | Benfield School (phase 1 of refurb) | 16.8 | Refurb | — |
| Newcastle | Walbottle Campus Technology College | 31.0 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Solihull | Lanchester School | 7.3 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Waltham Forest | Frederick Bremer School | 18.9 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Waltham Forest | Kelmscott School | 12.4 | New build and refurb | — |
| South Tyneside and Gateshead | Boldon School | 1.5 | ICT only | BSF funding for ICT only |
| South Tyneside and Gateshead | Lord Lawson Of Beamish School | 2.1 | ICT only | BSF funding for ICT only |
| Newcastle | Thomas Bewick School | 0.6 | ICT only | BSF funding for ICT only |
| Bristol | Bristol Metropolitan College | 26.6 | New build | PFI scheme |
| Kent | Ifield School | 7.8 | New build | — |
| Lambeth | The Michael Tippett School | 11.9 | New build | — |
| Stoke | Sandon High School | 16.2 | New build | |
| Lewisham | New Woodlands School | 0.2 | ICT only | BSF funding for ICT only |
| Lewisham | Greenvale School | 0.2 | ICT only | BSF funding for ICT only |
| Lewisham | Forest Hill School | 1.0 | ICT only | BSF funding for ICT only |
| Lewisham | Prendergast—Ladywell Fields College | 0.9 | ICT only | BSF funding for ICT only |

In addition three primary schools were procured through the Newcastle BSF local education partnership.

## Chemistry: GCE A-level

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1073W, on GCE A-level, how many and what percentage of the 187 schools that did not enter any pupils for an A-level in chemistry in 2006-07 entered at least one pupil for an A-level in applied science in that year. [278960]

**Mr. Coaker:** Of the 187 maintained mainstream schools that did not enter any pupils for an A-level in chemistry in 2006/07, 22 (12 per cent.) entered at least one candidate for a single or double award A-level in applied science in the same year.

## Children In Care: Missing Persons

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1067W, how many of the children who have gone missing from care have not been found; [281167]

(2) what steps the Government is taking to reduce the number of children who go missing from care homes. [281163]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Following a consultation, the Government plan to publish revised statutory guidance about children missing from home or care shortly. This will set out the steps that must be followed whenever any child in care goes missing. This includes the local authority working with partner agencies such as the police, so that there is a systematic response whenever a child in care goes missing from their care placement.

The National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes and Fostering Services require that all homes and fostering services should have explicit procedures to follow when children in their care may be missing or absent. We will be strengthening these Standards later this year and will include more specific guidance on action which should be taken when a child goes missing from a residential or foster home.

The Government have also launched the Young Runaways Action Plan. This brings together cross-Government action on children who run away from home or care and places particular emphasis on vulnerable children such as those who have been trafficked. More generally, a national indicator on young runaways, introduced in April this year, now requires LAs to have in place protocols for the inter-agency response to run-aways and missing children, including preventative measures.

The requested information on the number of children who have gone missing from care who have not been found is not held centrally by the Department. It is not possible to derive the number of children missing from care who have never been found, because we can only account for the situation at the end of the last completed data collection year. Children missing at the end of the data year may subsequently return into care. Information on looked after children can be found in "Statistical First Release Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008", which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Table A3 shows the number looked after at 31 March each year by their placement type at 31 March, which includes a category to show those looked after who were absent from their agreed placement at that time. At 31 March 2008, the number absent from their agreed placement was 150.

## Children: Databases

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much had been spent on ContactPoint on the latest date for which figures are available. [267466]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* Expenditure on the ContactPoint Project from 2005-06 to 31 March 2009 is forecast to be £167.2 million, including £2.2 million of pre-project costs.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to recommence data feeding from national systems into ContactPoint. [271500]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* Data feed from national systems will re-commence once all local authority ContactPoint management teams have been given access to ContactPoint.

### Children: Protection

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have contacted Ofsted's safeguarding children whistleblower hotline since its inception. [278971]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, 15 June 2009:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

A total of 329 nine calls have been made to Ofsted's safeguarding children whistleblower hotline since its inception on 1 April 2009. The majority of these were queries about childcare registration issues. However, 11 of these calls qualified under the Whistleblower procedures and have been handled accordingly. Three calls were received in April, five in May and a further three between 1 and 12 June 2009.

Any which relate to the safeguarding of individual children are forwarded to our Compliance, Investigation and Enforcement section (CIE), who will take action to ensure that the safety of the child concerned is secured.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister for State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

### Class Sizes

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were taught in classes of more than 30 pupils in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [278341]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

The table supplied shows the numbers of pupils in classes of 31 or more, where the class is taught by one teacher for primary and secondary schools combined. Latest figures for classes taught by more than one teacher can be found on the departmental website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/LATablesWeb.xls

(tables B12 and B14).

### Family Courts: Personnel

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service employees over the age of 65 years have been refused contract extensions in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [281623]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) has not refused any contract extensions for employees over the age of 65 years in the last 12 months.

### Further Education: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point were in further education (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the latest date for which information is available. [280446]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is shown in the table for Essex local education authority(LEA). This information is not available below LEA level.

*Proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds[1] in Essex LEA in education and Work Based Learning*

Percentage

| | End 1997 | End 2007 |
|---|---|---|
| *Full-time further education* | | |
| Age 16 | 71 | 75 |
| Age 17 | 57 | 62 |
| All aged 16 and 17 | 64 | 69 |
| *All education and Work Based Learning* | | |
| Age 16 | 80 | 83 |
| Age 17 | 69 | 72 |
| All aged 16 and 17 | 74 | 78 |

[1] The age of a learner is measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August.

*Source:*
Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000849/index.shtml

### GCE A-Level

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of maintained mainstream schools did not enter any pupils for an A level in English in each year since 2005. [277960]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information is given in the following table:

| | *Number of maintained mainstream schools that did not enter any pupils for a GCE A level in English* | *Percentage of maintained mainstream schools that did not enter any pupils for a GCE A level in English* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 38 | 2.2 |
| 2006 | 31 | 1.8 |
| 2007 | 32 | 1.8 |
| 2008 | 22 | 1.3 |

*Note:*
Only schools published in the AATs have been included.

*Source:*
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables (AAT) data.

## GCSE

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of pupils achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to B in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [277514]

(2) what proportion of pupils achieved five GCSEs at grade A* to B in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [277899]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information is given in the following table:

*Percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-B grades at GCSE*

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 1996/97 | 25.6 |
| 1997/98 | 24.9 |
| 1998/99 | 26.1 |
| 1999/00 | 26.9 |
| 2000/01 | 27.0 |
| 2001/02 | 27.6 |
| 2002/03 | 27.5 |
| 2003/04 | 27.7 |
| 2004/05 | 29.1 |
| 2005/06 | 29.6 |
| 2006/07 | 30.0 |
| 2007/08 | 32.7 |

*Note:*
Figures include achievements in full GCSEs and vocational GCSEs.
*Source:*
Achievement and Attainment Tables data.

Figures prior to 2004/05 relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all schools. Figures for 2004/05 onwards relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of maintained mainstream schools did not enter any pupils for a GCSE in *(a)* geography and *(b)* history in 2008. [278956]

**Mr. Coaker:** Of all the mainstream maintained schools, 133 (4.3 per cent.) did not enter any pupils for GCSE geography in 2008.

Of all the mainstream maintained schools, 96 (3.1 per cent.) did not enter any pupils for GCSE history in 2008.

Data relate to pupils at the end of KS4 and include GCSE only.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in how many and what proportion of mainstream maintained schools no pupil has achieved a grade of G or above in GCSE history in each year since 1997; [280442]

(2) in how many and what proportion of mainstream maintained schools no pupil has achieved a grade of C or above in GCSE history in each year since 1997. [280443]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 17 June 2009]:* The information for 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2008 is given in the tables. Figures for other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In order to protect confidentiality, it is usual and accepted practice to only give achievement and attainment performance information for schools with more than 10 pupils in the particular category (in this case, more than 10 pupils entered for GCSE history). However, as no schools are named, it is possible to simply give a count of the number of schools. It would not be possible to name schools with fewer that 10 pupils in the particular category.

*Mainstream maintained schools in which no pupil achieved a grade C or above in GCSE history*

| | Number of schools with more than 10 pupils attempting GCSE history | Number of schools with 10 or fewer pupils attempting GCSE history | All schools: Number | All schools: Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 3 | 139 | 142 | 4.9 |
| 2006 | 7 | 113 | 120 | 4.0 |
| 2003 | 10 | 102 | 112 | 3.8 |
| 2000 | 12 | 94 | 106 | 3.6 |
| 1997 | 23 | 114 | 137 | 4.6 |

*Mainstream maintained schools in which no pupil achieved a grade G or above in GCSE history*

| | Number of schools with more than 10 pupils attempting GCSE history | Number of schools with 10 or fewer pupils attempting GCSE history | All schools: Number | All schools: Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 0 | 134 | 134 | 4.6 |
| 2006 | 0 | 108 | 108 | 3.6 |
| 2003 | 0 | 99 | 99 | 3.3 |
| 2000 | 0 | 87 | 87 | 3.0 |
| 1997 | 0 | 103 | 103 | 3.4 |

*Note:*
1. These figures are derived from the Achievement and Attainment Tables data.
2. Figures for 2006 and 2008 relate to the achievements of pupils at the end of KS4. Figures for 1997, 2000 and 2003 relate to 15 year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August).
3. Only open schools published in the Achievement and Attainment Tables have been included.

## Grammar Schools

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children attended grammar schools in each year since 2007; what proportion of the secondary school population this figure represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [280333]

**Mr. Coaker:** The requested information is shown in the table:

*State-funded secondary[1] and grammar schools: number of pupils[2]—as at January each year in England*

| | Number of pupils attending grammar schools | Number of pupils attending secondary schools | Percentage of pupils attending grammar schools[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 156,800 | 3,321,530 | 4.7 |
| 2008 | 157,410 | 3,289,000 | 4.8 |

*State-funded secondary[1] and grammar schools: number of pupils[2]—as at January each year in England*

| | Number of pupils attending grammar schools | Number of pupils attending secondary schools | Percentage of pupils attending grammar schools[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 (provisional) | 158,610 | 3,256,120 | 4.9 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, and CTCs and academies.
[2] Solely registered pupils only.
[3] Expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils attending all secondary schools.
*Note:*
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

## Pre-school Education: Per Capita Costs

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nursery school places there are per head of population in each local authority area. [281501]

**Dawn Primarolo:** All local authorities in England have a duty to secure sufficient childcare places to meet the requirements of parents in their area in order to enable them to work or undertake education or training leading to work. They must also secure free early years provision for pre-school children of a prescribed age.

The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four year-olds. This is derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places.

The latest information on the number of free early education places filled by three and four year-olds can be found in Table 5 of the Statistical First Release Provision for Children Under Five Years of Age in England: January 2009. The latest figures can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000848/index.shtml

Information on nursery school places per head of population has not been included. This is because children can access their free entitlement across different local authority areas and therefore part time equivalent places are not on an equivalent basis with the local authority population figures. Population figures at this level of disaggregation are also not as reliable as at the national level.

## Pre-school Education: Standards

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* maintained and *(b)* independent nurseries in each local authority area were placed in special measures in each year since 2001. [276655]

**Dawn Primarolo:** These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

## Pupils: Obesity

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what training and professional development is provided for teachers of physical education to ensure that children classified as overweight and obese receive appropriate assistance to participate in physical activity at school. [278301]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The PE and sport professional development programme is raising the quality of teaching and learning in PE and sport in schools. As part of the programme, schools are supported in carrying out an audit of their professional development needs in PE and sport. Schools can then choose, free of charge, from a menu of professional development resources designed to address these needs. The programme includes resources aimed specifically at getting young people more active, whatever their circumstances. The recent Ofsted report - Physical Education in Schools, 2005/08 praised the Professional Development programme for the way it was improving the quality of teaching and learning in PE and sport in schools.

As announced in Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: One Year On, the Government are currently exploring the development of a further focus within the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People which specifically helps overweight and obese children to achieve and maintain a healthy weight.

## Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the funding allocation per secondary school pupil is in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England in 2009-10. [279324]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) guaranteed per pupil unit of funding (GUF) for 2009-10 for Northamptonshire local authority and England are shown in the following table. There is funding from the Learning and Skills Council and other grants that support the schools budget whose allocations have not yet been finalised for 2009-10. Separate figures are not available for secondary schools as funding is not allocated by phase. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 15 and are in cash terms.

| | *2009-10 DSG GUF* |
|---|---|
| Northamptonshire | 3,923 |
| England | 4,218 |

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the funding allocation per secondary school pupil is in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in 2009-10. [281853]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) guaranteed per pupil unit of funding (GUF) for 2009-10 for Essex local authority is £4,067. This is for all funded pupils aged three to 15 and is in cash terms. There is funding from the Learning and Skills Council and other grants that support the schools budget whose allocations have not yet been finalised for 2009-10. Separate figures are not available for secondary schools as funding is not allocated by phase.

## Schools: Buildings

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools operate entirely from (i) temporary and (ii) pre-1919 buildings; and if he will make a statement. [281181]

**Mr. Coaker:** Asset management data were supplied to the Department by local education authorities, most recently in 2005. The data showed 18 per cent. and 8 per cent. of floor area in pre-1919 buildings for primary schools and secondary schools respectively. With the unprecedented levels of central Government capital support for investment in schools, updated information could be expected to show lower percentages.

The data included information on the amount of accommodation in temporary buildings. However, checks indicated that the completeness and quality of this information was not good enough for accurate analysis.

Temporary accommodation is appropriate where there is too little time to construct permanent accommodation, or where the need is likely to be short term. In such circumstances, modern, high-quality temporary buildings provide a good environment for teaching and learning. Where they are new or relocated, they are required to meet building environmental standards similar to those which apply to permanent buildings.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children attend *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools housed in temporary buildings; and if he will make a statement. [281182]

**Mr. Coaker:** Data on school temporary buildings were supplied to the Department by local education authorities, most recently in 2005. However, the data did not show numbers of pupils taught in those buildings. Furthermore, checks indicated that the completeness and quality of the data was not good enough for accurate analysis.

Temporary accommodation is appropriate where there is too little time to construct permanent accommodation, or where the need is likely to be short term. In such circumstances, modern, high-quality temporary buildings provide a good environment for teaching and learning. Where they are new or relocated, they are required to meet building environmental standards similar to those which apply to permanent buildings.

## Schools: Knives

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently excluded from schools for (i) violent behaviour and (ii) carrying a knife in each of the last five years. [272968]

**Mr. Coaker:** Reasons for exclusion were collected for the first time in 2003-04. There is no category specifically on 'carrying a knife'. There are categories for verbal abuse/threatening behaviour and for physical assault.

The latest data available are for 2006-07; information on exclusions for 2007-08 is scheduled to be published in the summer.

Information on reasons for exclusions is published as follows:

*2006-07*

Tables 9 and 10

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

*2005-06*

Table 8

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

*2004-05*

Table 11

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000662/index.shtml

*2003-04*

Table 11

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000582/index.shtml

## Schools: Standards

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 442W, on schools: standards, what the name is of each adviser; and how much each has cost in 2008-09. [279911]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 15 June 2009]:* We do not have information on each individual adviser, or their cost, and to collect this information would involve disproportionate cost and contravene data protection rules.

The figure of around £90 million, given in the answer of 2 June, is an estimate of the total cost of field forces which provide support and challenge to local authorities and children's trusts across the full range of children's outcomes. The largest field force supporting school standards is the national strategies and the cost of their national and regional field force in 2008-09 was around £30 million. However, this includes work on other areas such as early years and school behaviour.

## Science: GCSE

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools achieved a GCSE in core science and no other science qualification in 2008. [278958]

**Mr. Coaker:** Of the pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, educated in maintained mainstream schools, 79443 (13.5 per cent.) achieved a GCSE in core science and no other[1] science qualification in 2008.

[1] The other sciences that were considered were Double Award Science and Applied Science, Applied Science, Additional Applied Science, Additional Science, Environmental Science, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology.

## Special Educational Needs

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained mainstream secondary schools *(a)* had between one and nine pupils and *(b)* 10 or more pupils with a statement of special educational needs at the end of Key Stage 4 in the latest period for which figures are available. [282025]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* There were 2,542 maintained mainstream schools at which between one and nine pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 had statements of special educational needs in 2008.

*(b)* There were 234 maintained mainstream schools at which 10 or more pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 had statements of special educational needs in 2008.

The source of this data is the National Pupil Database.

## Specialist Schools: Science

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on specialist schools: science, how many of the 433 specialist schools which had chosen science as a specialism at the time of that answer entered one or more pupils for GCSE chemistry in 2008. [278962]

**Mr. Coaker:** Of all 433 schools with a specialism in sciences, 311 (71.8 per cent.) entered at least one pupil for GCSE[1] chemistry in 2008.

The source for this answer is the Achievement and Attainment Tables database.

[1] Only full GCSEs have been counted.

## Teachers: Complaints

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints against teachers have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* upheld and *(c)* rejected by the General Teaching Council in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [281177]

**Mr. Coaker:** The number of complaints against teachers that have been investigated upheld and rejected by the General Teaching Council for England in each year since 2005 are set out in the table.

| | *Investigated* | *Rejected* | *Upheld at a hearing* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 373 | 244 | 86 |
| 2006 | 360 | 267 | 98 |
| 2007 | 445 | 311 | 124 |
| 2008 | 419 | 315 | 125 |

*Note:*
Cases are not always concluded in the year in which they are investigated.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average time taken for the General Teaching Council to complete its investigation of a teacher following a complaint was in the latest period for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [281178]

(2) how many investigations by the General Teaching Council following a complaint against a teacher took more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* 12 months and *(d)* 18 months to complete in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [281179]

**Mr. Coaker:** When considering complaints about teachers the General Teaching Council for England has two distinct processes; an investigation process and a hearing process. The investigation process concludes either with a referral to the hearing process or with a decision that there is no case to answer.

The average time taken for cases to be concluded in each of these processes is provided in the following table.

*Average time taken to conclude complaints*

*Weeks*

| *Financial year* | *Cases concluded at investigation stage (i.e. no case to answer)* | *Cases concluded following a hearing* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006/07 | 13 | 78 |
| 2007/08 | 12 | 67 |
| 2008/09 | 12 | 59 |

The timescales for considering complaints at each of these stages is set out in the following tables.

*Cases concluded at investigating stage*

*Months*

| | *0 to 3* | *3 to 6* | *6 to 12* | *12 to 18* | *Over 18* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006/07 | 171 | 62 | 16 | 1 | 2 |
| 2007/08 | 224 | 59 | 13 | 4 | 0 |
| 2008/09 | 222 | 84 | 11 | 2 | 3 |

*Cases concluded at hearing stage*

*Months*

| | *0 to 3* | *3 to 6* | *6 to 12* | *12 to 18* | *Over 18* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006/07 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 68 | 44 |
| 2007/08 | 0 | 2 | 37 | 38 | 40 |
| 2008/09 | 0 | 1 | 75 | 51 | 24 |

*Note:*
Data are unavailable for the financial year 2005/06.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers have been struck off the teaching register following an investigation by the General Teaching Council in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [281180]

**Mr. Coaker:** The number of prohibition orders preventing teachers from practising as a registered teacher issued by the General Teaching Council for England in each year since 2001 is set out in the table.

| | *Number of prohibition orders issued* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 0 |
| 2002 | 2 |
| 2003 | 6 |
| 2004 | 5 |
| 2005 | 13 |
| 2006 | 24 |
| 2007 | 31 |
| 2008 | 25 |

## Teachers: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom assistants were employed in schools in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point (A) in 1997 and (B) on the latest date for which information is available. [280448]

**Mr. Coaker:** The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools in the former Essex local authority area and Castle Point parliamentary constituency, January 1997 and 2008.

*Full-time equivalent teachers and teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools—years January 1997 and 2008*

*Coverage: Essex local authority and Castle Point parliamentary constituency*

| | 1997 | | 2008 Essex | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Former Essex LA areas* | *Castle Point*[2] | *Southend* | *Thurrock* | *Essex (post 1 April 1998)* | *Castle Point*[2] |
| Teachers[1] | 12,580 | 710 | 1,740 | 1,200 | 11,150 | 730 |
| Teaching assistants[2,3] | 1,720 | 80 | 610 | 590 | 4,410 | 280 |

[1] Qualified and unqualified teachers.
[2] Teaching assistants include teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff. 2008 figures also include higher level teaching assistants.
[3] School Census and the Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies,618g (Essex teacher numbers).
*Note:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

## Teachers: Males

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in which wards there are no primary schools with a qualified male teacher; [274694]

(2) pursuant to his letter of correction of 4 December 2008 to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham, Deposited Paper DEP2008-2997, to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 596W, on teachers: males, how many primary schools with no qualified male teachers there were in each ward in 2008. [274696]

**Mr. Coaker:** A table that provides the names of Census Area Statistic (CAS) wards that have nursery or primary schools without any full or part-time male qualified teacher and the number of schools in each of these to which this applies has been placed in the House Libraries. The information is for January 2008.

## Teachers: Training

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* target number of places and *(b)* number of places filled for (i) mathematics, (ii) physics and (iii) chemistry teacher trainees at each teacher training institution was in each of the last three years. [260810]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department sets the number of places for recruitment to initial teacher training (ITT) at sector level. ITT providers are allocated training places based on a bidding process carried out by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) and providers are encouraged to set aspirational recruitment targets for themselves. A table showing the number of allocated places and new entrants to ITT courses in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been placed in the House Libraries.

## Teaching Assistants: Qualifications

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching assistants in each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school have attained Higher Level Teaching Assistant status. [278082]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* The information has been placed in the House Libraries. It provides the number of higher level teaching assistants in each local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary school in England, as collected by the January 2008 School Census, the latest information available.

## Young People: Greater London

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Young London Matters Agenda launched by the Government Office for London in 2006. [278692]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government Office for London (GOL) commissioned an independent stocktake of Young London Matters (YLM) in February 2009. The purpose of the stocktake was to review Young London Matters' focus and impact and enable GOL to make informed decisions about its direction for the coming year. Stakeholders were surveyed in March and April 2009 and asked to comment on what YLM had done well, where it could have improved and what its focus in the coming year should be. We are aiming to publish this in due course.

## Youth Services

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on MyPlace from the public purse to date; how much has been spent on each MyPlace centre to date; and what estimate he has made of the running costs of each such centre in the next five years. [282024]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We have allocated £240 million to 62 projects to date. A full list showing funding allocations for each of these projects is shown in Annex 1.

*Annex 1: grant allocations to MyPlace projects as at 23 June 2009*

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| Pegasus Theatre—Building the Future | Oxfordshire | 1,800,000.00 |
| Minehead EYE | Somerset | 3,155,856.00 |
| Sutton Life Centre | Wandsworth | 4,074,688.00 |
| Shoeburyness Youth Centre | Southend-on-Sea | 2,988,362.00 |
| New Life Centre | Hartlepool | 4,516,000.00 |
| New Horizon Youth Centre | Camden | 1,500,000.00 |
| Bradley Youth Hub | Lancashire | 1,335,533.00 |
| PRIMETIME | Bournemouth | 1,300,000.00 |
| Blackburn Youth Zone | Blackburn with Darwen | 5,000,000.00 |
| My Place Chesterfield | Derbyshire | 3,108,226.00 |
| Carlisle Youth Zone | Cumbria | 4,980,234.00 |
| The Hub | Kent | 2,200,000.00 |
| Dawlish Youth Centre | Devon | 1,700,000.00 |
| The Hub | Durham | 4,951,830.00 |
| TAB Centre Plus | Enfield | 2,168,228.00 |

*Annex 1: grant allocations to MyPlace projects as at 23 June 2009*

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| OPEN Central | Norfolk | 1,256,571.00 |
| Green Rivers Centre | Walsall | 1,287,183.00 |
| The Young Persons Village | Stoke on Trent | 4,800,000.00 |
| Access all Areas | Somerset | 3,922,000.00 |
| Chesterton's Vision | Staffordshire | 4,389,474.00 |
| Tuned In | Redcar and Cleveland | 4,946,280.00 |
| Southpoint—the Blackpool Youth Hub Centre | Blackpool | 3,996,049.00 |
| The XCHANGE Project | Suffolk | 4,750,500.00 |
| Trafford Youth Village | Trafford | 4,999,951.00 |
| Middlesbrough Myplace at the Custom House | Middlesbrough | 4,262,062.00 |
| ExtremeConnexions' | Hertfordshire | 4,999,684.00 |
| Toxteth Youth and Sports Centre | Liverpool | 2,300,000.00 |
| The HUT—One Hut, Five Towns, Many Talents | Wakefield | 5,000,000.00 |
| Leicester City Youth Hub | Leicester | 5,000,000.00 |
| Manchester Youth Zone (Harpurhey) | Manchester | 5,000,000.00 |
| The Phoenix Centre | West Sussex | 1,500,000.00 |
| Dream Street | Havering | 4,704,492.00 |
| TeenSpace Shrewsbury and TeenSpace Oswestry | Shropshire | 3,900,000.00 |
| Thamesmead Youth Leisure Zone | Bexley | 5,000,000.00 |
| The Y—Stoke Aldermoor Inspiration Centre | Coventry | 2,177,748.00 |
| Hastings Youth Hub | East Sussex | 4,246,275.00 |
| Culture Fusion | Bradford | 5,000,000.00 |
| MYplace in Solihull | Solihull | 4,990,000.00 |
| The Showrooom | Lincolnshire | 4,842,500.00 |
| The Peoples' Place | Sheffield | 2,144,595.00 |
| The Pitch—A Place to Go | Harrow | 4,198,000.00 |
| Integrating Youth Project | Birmingham | 4,999,802.00 |
| ICE Centre Stockton-on-Tees (Inspiration, Creativity and Entertainment) | Stockton-on-Tees | 4,995,250.00 |
| MyPlace Bristol | Bristol | 5,000,000.00 |
| Parkfield | Torbay | 4,875,000.00 |

*Annex 1: grant allocations to MyPlace projects as at 23 June 2009*

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| The NGY | Nottingham | 4,906,000.00 |
| Southside Regeneration Youth Project | Bath and North East Somerset | 2,036,473.00 |
| OurPlace 'Where there will be more young people than adults' | Knowsley | 4,999,274.00 |
| The Buzz | Halton | 2,500,000.00 |
| Myplace@Vine Lane (MP@V) | Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 4,924,422.00 |
| The Roundwood Centre—A Beacon for Young People in Brent | Brent | 4,997,151.00 |
| Plashet Young Peoples Hub | Newham | 4,980,000.00 |
| Myplace in Doncaster | Doncaster | 5,000,000.00 |
| Oldham Youth Zone | Oldham | 4,994,577.00 |
| The Big Hub | Leeds | 4,979,376.00 |
| Hinckley Club for Young People | Leicestershire | 4,505,415.00 |
| The Salmon Youth Centre Phase 2 | Southwark | 1,118,679.00 |
| Myplace at Westfield Folk House Young Peoples Centre | Nottinghamshire | 5,000,000.00 |
| Hornsey Road Baths Youth Centre | London Borough of Islington | 3,547,720.00 |
| Rotherham myplace (RMP—working title) | Rotherham | 3,356,750.00 |
| Hackney's Youth Hubbz | Hackney | 4,990,902.00 |
| Youth Centerprise | Birmingham | 4,998,500.00 |
| Total | — | 240,097,612.00 |

A further £31.6 million is expected to be allocated to additional projects in December 2009.

MyPlace is a capital programme and therefore includes no running cost funding. It is a programme that local authorities, third, private and public sector partners and young people work together to plan, deliver and operate financially sustainable projects. As part of the MyPlace assessment process, projects were asked to provide robust plans and commitments for financing ongoing running costs and to ensure long term sustainability. Information on estimated running costs for each MyPlace facility is not currently held centrally.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 24 June 2009*

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Consumption

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* male and *(b)* female average weekly alcohol consumption in each of the last 15 years. [281277]

**Gillian Merron:** Information about alcohol consumption is collected as part of the General Household Survey (GHS), including average weekly alcohol consumption.

The following table gives the average weekly consumption for the last 15 years, broken down by gender. It should be noted that information on average weekly alcohol consumption is not collected every year.

*Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex for persons aged 16 and over, 1994-2006*

| | *Men* | *Women* |
|---|---|---|
| *Unweighted* | | |
| 1994 | 15.4 | 5.4 |
| 1996 | 16.0 | 6.3 |
| 1998 | 16.4 | 6.4 |
| *Weighted* | | |
| 1998 | 17.1 | 6.5 |
| 2000 | 17.4 | 7.1 |
| 2001 | 17.2 | 7.5 |
| 2002 | 17.2 | 7.6 |
| 2005[1] | 15.8 | 6.5 |
| 2006[2,3] | 14.8 | 6.2 |
| 2006[2,4] | 18.7 | 9.0 |

[1] 2005 data include last quarter of 2004-05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.
[2] Results for 2006 include longitudinal data.
[3] Original method.
[4] Improved method.
*Notes:*
1. Weighting is a process in which GHS results are adjusted for non-response and to account for differences between the distribution of persons by age and gender; and region in the sample when compared to the population of Great Britain. Weighting is an improvement to the methodology from 1998; however, weighted data are not available before 1998, so cannot be supplied.
*Source:*
General Household Survey 2006: Smoking and drinking among adults 2006.

An improved method to calculate alcohol consumption was introduced in 2006, this was done to reflect increases in wine glass size, the increased alcoholic strength of wine and better estimates of the alcoholic strengths of beers, lagers and ciders. This is likely to mean that data for the years before 2006 understate consumption levels.

### Audio Equipment: Health Hazards

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 746W, on MP3 players, what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the findings of the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks on noise from personal music players; [279809]

(2) with reference to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 746W, on MP3 players, what his Department's policy is on the determination of safe levels of noise in relation to the use of personal music players; [279832]

(3) if he will take steps to increase levels of public awareness of the potential effects on hearing of listening to personal music players at high noise levels; and if he will make a statement; [279833]

(4) if he will take steps to encourage manufacturers of personal MP3 players to provide users of such players with information on levels of noise which may damage hearing; and if he will make a statement; [279834]

(5) whether his Department has had discussions with manufacturers of personal music players on the potential effects on hearing of their use; and if he will make a statement. [279835]

**Gillian Merron:** The safety and regulation of consumer products, such as personal music players is, within Government, primarily a matter for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. The Department welcomes the report of the European Union's Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks. The Department, advised by the Health Protection Agency, keeps under review the risks to health which may be attributed to various kinds of noise. The Department has no plans at present for an information campaign on the risks to hearing posed by the use of personal music players.

### Breast Cancer: Males

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to improve services for men with breast cancer; [281626]

(2) what recent representations he has received on breast cancer in men. [281637]

**Ann Keen:** No recent representations have been received on male breast cancer.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published "Improving Outcomes in Breast Cancer" guidance in 2002, which addresses services and treatments for breast cancer patients, including men.

In February 2009, NICE also published guidance on the treatment and diagnosis of early and locally advanced breast cancer, and advanced breast cancer, which complement the cancer service guidance.

### Cancer: Surgery

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* prostatectomies and *(b)* cystectomies for cancer there were in the latest year for which figures are available; and which NHS trusts performed (i) fewer than 10, (ii) between 10 and 39 and (iii) 40 or more such procedures in that year. [281584]

**Ann Keen:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for South-West Norfolk (Christopher Fraser) on 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1361W. A table showing the count of finished consultant episodes for cancer-related prostatectomy, prostatectomy and cystoprosatectomy by trust in 2007-08, the latest year for which this information is available, has already been placed in the Library.

### Chiropractic: Complaints

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the General Chiropractic Council on trends in the number of complaints received regarding chiropractors; and if he will make a statement. [281774]

**Ann Keen:** Departmental officials have held discussions with the General Chiropractic Council about their plans for handling the steep recent increase in the number of complaints received.

### Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* members of the public, *(b)* health professionals, *(c)* journalists and *(d)* representatives of patient or service user groups have attended meetings of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence since 1 January 2009. [280790]

**Ann Keen:** Since 1 January 2009, there have been three Council meetings of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence. Over this period, one member of the public, no health professionals, no journalists and two representatives of patient or service user groups have attended Council meetings. Minutes and papers from Council meetings are available on the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence's website:

www.chre.org.uk/council/60/ and www.chre.org.uk/council/59

### Dengue Fever

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the NHS's expenditure on the treatment of dengue fever in the last 12 months. [280698]

**Gillian Merron:** There has been no estimate made of national health service expenditure on the treatment of dengue fever in the past 12 months.

Dengue fever does not naturally occur in the United Kingdom. Cases in the UK are imported and are associated with travel to areas where the disease is endemic, such as, South East Asia and the Indian subcontinent, the Caribbean and South and Central America.

The following table shows the number of cases diagnosed in the UK in 2007 and 2008 by the Health Protection Agency's special pathogens reference unit.

| | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 137 | 153 |
| Northern Ireland | — | 1 |
| Scotland | 20 | 9 |
| Wales | 7 | 4 |
| Grand total | 164 | 167 |

*Source:*
Data provided by the Health Protection Agency as at 17 June 2009.

### Departmental Energy

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of water consumption on his Department's office estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [280934]

(2) what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department in (a) 2006-07 and (b) 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [280935]

(3) what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [280936]

(4) what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [280937]

(5) what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [281022]

(6) what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport used for administrative operations by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [281023]

(7) what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff; [281024]

**Phil Hope:** The Department and its Executive agencies, NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and Medicines (PASA) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) take part in the annual Sustainable Development in Government exercise, which enables Departments to report on their activities against the sustainable operations targets published in June 2006. For 2007-08, NHS Connecting for Health was also included.

The following figures detailed for 2006-07 total and full-time equivalent (FTE) and for 2007-08 totals (with the exception of carbon emissions from air travel) have been published as part of the Sustainable Development in Government Report for 2007 and 2008. Copies of both reports have already been placed in the Library.

| | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Per FTE | Total | Per FTE |
| Water Consumption ($m^3$) | 21,746 | 6.9 | 17,765 | 6.74 |
| Carbon Emissions from offices (tonnes $CO_2$) | 6,753 | 1.698 | 8,635 | 2.321 |
| Energy Consumed (kWh) | 18,404,426 | 4,628 | 23,099,389 | 6,201 |
| Percentage of electricity derived from renewable sources | 99.9 | — | 80.8 | — |
| Amount of waste arising (tonnes) | 574 | 0.14 | 743 | 0.227 |
| Carbon dioxide emissions arising from road based transport (tonnes $CO_2$) | 568 | 0.14 | 553 | 0.09 |
| Carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel (tonnes $CO_2$) | 799 | 0.201 | 1,136 | 0.184 |

For the core Department, the information in this answer (with the exception of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road based transport and air travel) covers the Department's central administrative estate of Richmond House, Wellington House and Skipton House. The Department is a minor occupier in New Kings Beam House (HM Revenue and Customs) and Quarry House in Leeds (Department of Work and Pensions) and the data for these sites are not available to us.

The carbon dioxide emissions arising from road based transport and air travel cover the whole Department office estate including New Kings Beam House and Quarry House.

For 2007-08, for the first time, NHS Connecting for Health (CfH) submitted data along with the Department and our agencies NHS PASA and MHRA. In practice, however, MHRA and CfH were only able to provide limited information because they occupy rented accommodation for which energy and water consumption data are not available. This means that the 2007-08 FTE figures for water and energy consumption are slightly skewed.

### Departmental Internet

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1352-58W, on the departmental internet, how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions were received by each website operated by his Department in each of the last 12 months. [280721]

**Phil Hope:** The information is as follows:

Page impressions and unique visitors for the last 12 months—The Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk

| | Unique visitors | Page impressions |
|---|---|---|
| May 2009 | 957,734 | 5,479,933 |
| April 2009 | 969,412 | 5,753,565 |
| March 2009 | 1,033,680 | 6,383,331 |
| February 2009 | 924,026 | 5,642,052 |
| January 2009 | 1,017,122 | 6,205,364 |
| December 2008 | 696,636 | 4,403,460 |
| November 2008 | 874,024 | 5,578,886 |
| October 2008 | 849,325 | 5,555,268 |
| September 2008 | 772,629 | 4,717,921 |
| August 2008 | 580,293 | 3,647,145 |
| July 2008 | 806,832 | 5,122,615 |
| June 2008 | 964,577 | 5,883,074 |

Page impressions and unique visitors—The Department's advisory bodies website for the last 12 months at:

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk

| | Unique visitors | Page impressions |
|---|---|---|
| May 2009 | 20,370 | 130,202 |
| April 2009 | 20,791 | 119,795 |
| March 2009 | 22,928 | 151,785 |
| February 2009 | 19,481 | 133,699 |
| January 2009 | 20,647 | 143,423 |
| December 2008 | 19,872 | 156,840 |
| November 2008 | 26,276 | 181,291 |
| October 2008 | 26,374 | 190,170 |
| September 2008 | 20,636 | 133,031 |
| August 2008 | 18,387 | 126,039 |
| July 2008 | 22,968 | 137,455 |
| June 2008 | 30,723 | 147,110 |

Page impressions and unique visitors for the last 12 months—NHS Choices website.

Page impressions from November 2008 onwards differ to those given in the answer of 4 February 2009 as these now include visitors and page impressions at:

www.selfhelpguide.nhs.uk

which is hosted by NHS Direct although branded NHS Choices at:

www.nhs.uk

| | Unique visitors | Page impressions |
|---|---|---|
| May 2009 | 5,295,640 | 32,013,540 |
| April 2009 | 4,458,415 | 28,369,471 |
| March 2009 | 5,189,162 | 33,998,656 |
| February 2009 | 4,300,217 | 29,763,052 |
| January 2009 | 4,264,746 | 29,422,915 |
| December 2008 | 3,125,976 | 21,123,054 |
| November 2008 | 3,231,224 | 22,916,827 |
| October 2008 | 2,421,293 | 14,362,161 |
| September 2008 | 2,068,380 | 12,982,408 |
| August 2008 | 2,017,496 | 13,004,201 |
| July 2008 | 2,154,660 | 14,488,807 |
| June 2008 | 1,933,770 | 12,837,873 |

*Notes:*
Unique visitors: the number of unique visitors that have entered a website within a given timescale. Thus, multiple visits within that given timescale are not recorded.
Page impressions: also known as 'hits', this is when a website page is displayed on a visitor's browser.
To provide the number of unique visitors and page hits for all other websites listed in the answer of 4 February 2009 would incur disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Location

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on relocation costs for new members of staff in each of the last three years. [280775]

**Phil Hope:** For the financial year 2008-09, any relocation costs for new members of staff will be reported in the Department's remuneration report, which will be published as part of the 2009 resource accounts in July.

For 2007-08, relocation costs of £41,900 were paid on the resettlement of one new member of staff whose overall benefits-in-kind were reported in the 2007-08 remuneration report and can be found on page 25 at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_089421

For 2006-07 no relocation costs were incurred for new members of staff.

### Departmental Work Experience

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281518]

**Phil Hope:** The Department does not hold records centrally of graduate internships, which may be arranged locally and independently by individual managers in its directorates.

### Elderly: Social Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 12 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2007-08, HC (2007-08) 1042, for what reason his Department reported slippage against its target for increasing the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home; to what extent the target was met in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [280974]

**Phil Hope:** The Department reported slippage in the 2007-08 Department's Resource Accounts for the number of older people helped to live at home. The number of older people as at 31 March per 1,000 had decreased from 81 in 2005-06 to 80 in 2006-07 representing a decrease of 1.3 per cent. However, the data (when it became available in December 2008) showed that by 31 March in 2007-08 the number increased to 81 representing an increase of 1.4 per cent.

There are a range of reasons to account for the change, including the potential impact of increasing the level of local eligibility criteria being met locally; an increased local focus on shorter periods of rehabilitation; the increased use of support provided through the voluntary sector such as grant funded services; and the improved information and signposting to enable people to access appropriate and relevant local support thereby reducing the numbers of older people recorded as receiving "care managed" services.

### Fractures

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the clinical management of patients affected by falls, fragility fractures and osteoporosis. [279635]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has taken steps to improve the outcomes of patients with fragility fractures with the appointment of a National Clinical Director for Trauma Care, Professor Keith Willett. He will play an important role in the development of clinical policy for trauma care, including the care of older people with fractures.

The Department is also working with stakeholders on a number of initiatives in support of the further development of integrated falls and osteoporosis services including:

working with the Royal College of Physicians and local services to take forward work to improve services for people who fall and are at risk of falling;

additional investment in DXA scanning bringing investment up to £20 million to increase capacity in osteoporosis services, resulting in waits over 13 weeks falling by 90 per cent.; and

working, as part of the wider Prevention Package announced in May 2008, to encourage older people to exercise which helps them to improve bone mass and provide general lifestyle messages, around diet, exercise, reducing smoking and avoiding excessive consumption of alcohol, which are helpful in the prevention of osteoporosis.

In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has produced recent clinical guidelines on the use of drugs to prevent osteoporotic fractures in post-menopausal women.

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms his Department has in place for the assessment of standards of care for people *(a)* at risk of falls, fragility fractures and osteoporosis and *(b)* with fragility fractures and osteoporosis. [279636]

**Phil Hope:** It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities, working in partnership with local authorities, to commission appropriate standards of care locally for people with, or at risk from, fragility fractures and osteoporosis.

The Quality Care Commission have been given the power to monitor and inspect the provision of local health and social care services, including pathways of care or themes where there are particular concerns about quality.

### Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the largest *(a)* single and *(b)* aggregate claim for NHS treatment made by a carrier of a European Health Insurance Card was in each of the last 10 years; [280858]

(2) how much of the sums paid by the Government to other EU member states under the provisions of the European Health Insurance Card arose from treatment in each NHS trust in each of the last 10 years. [281109]

**Gillian Merron:** The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) allows the holder to access treatment that becomes necessary during a visit to another European Economic Area member state, not in the home state itself. Therefore the sums paid by the United Kingdom to another member state in respect of the EHIC, relate to treatment provided in that member state, rather than by the national health service.

## Hospitals

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to strategic health authorities on provision of information to those in the catchment area of hospitals on decisions to reduce levels of services at those hospitals. [282135]

**Ann Keen:** The Department provides no specific guidance to strategic health authorities on the provision of information to those in the catchment area of hospitals on decisions to reduce levels of services at those hospitals. These are matters for the local primary care trusts who have responsibility for involving service users in the planning of services and development of proposals for change in services.

## Hospitals: Admissions

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there have been for diagnosis code *(a)* T40.0, *(b)* T40.1, *(c)* T40.2, *(d)* T40.3, *(e)* T40.4, *(f)* T40.5, *(g)* T40.6, *(h)* T40.7, *(i)* T40.8 and *(j)* T40.9 for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 14, (B) 14 to 17 and (C) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [280478]

**Gillian Merron:** The information has been placed in the Library. The information requested is shown in the tables by strategic health authority (SHA). Were the data presented by primary care trust, the majority of entries would be small numbers and would therefore be suppressed in order to preserve confidentiality.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there have been for *(a)* measles, *(b)* mumps and *(c)* rubella for (i) males and (ii) females aged (A) under 10, (B) 10 to 13, (C) 14 to 17 and (D) 18 years and over in (1) each region and (2) each primary care trust in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [280479]

**Gillian Merron:** The available information is given in the following tables. This covers activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

*Count of finished admission episodes where the admission was for measles, mumps or rubella*

*Measles*

| | Male | | | | Female | | | | Sex/age Unknown |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 0-9 | 10-13 | 14-17 | 18+ | 0-9 | 10-13 | 14-17 | 18+ | 18+ |
| 2007-08 | 147 | 5 | 10 | 37 | 114 | 4 | 12 | 27 | — |
| 2006-07 | 97 | 1 | 8 | 22 | 104 | 8 | 6 | 33 | — |
| 2005-06 | 36 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 38 | 3 | 2 | 7 | — |
| 2004-05 | 29 | — | — | 10 | 25 | — | — | 7 | — |
| 2003-04 | 42 | 3 | — | 10 | 38 | 5 | 3 | 10 | — |

*Mumps*

| | Male | | | | Female | | | | Sex/age Unknown |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 0-9 | 10-13 | 14-17 | 18+ | 0-9 | 10-13 | 14-17 | 18+ | 18+ |
| 2007-08 | 28 | 7 | 7 | 71 | 22 | 10 | 6 | 46 | 1 |
| 2006-07 | 36 | 14 | 18 | 136 | 25 | 4 | 6 | 61 | — |
| 2005-06 | 59 | 34 | 155 | 754 | 34 | 20 | 49 | 204 | — |
| 2004-05 | 51 | 15 | 105 | 467 | 21 | 15 | 58 | 189 | — |
| 2003-04 | 13 | 6 | 11 | 51 | 21 | 3 | 13 | 26 | — |

*Rubella*

| | Male | | | | Female | | | | Sex/age Unknown |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 0-9 | 10-13 | 14-17 | 18+ | 0-9 | 10-13 | 14-17 | 18+ | 18+ |
| 2007-08 | 8 | — | 1 | 4 | 8 | — | — | 8 | — |
| 2006-07 | 5 | — | — | 5 | 6 | — | — | 6 | — |
| 2005-06 | 9 | — | — | 1 | 4 | — | 3 | 3 | — |
| 2004-05 | 14 | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | — | 2 | 5 | — |
| 2003-04 | 13 | — | — | 2 | 7 | — | 2 | 5 | — |

*Notes:*

*1. Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*2. Primary and secondary diagnoses*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

*3. Codes used to denote measles, mumps or rubella*

Measles B05.—Measles

Mumps B26.—Mumps

Rubella B06.—Rubella [German measles], P35.0 Congenital rubella syndrome.

If the patient has been admitted for treatment of measles, mumps or rubella, then the code for measles, mumps or rubella would be found in a primary position, except in the following cases:

a. Measles, mumps or rubella complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium; in this case, one of the following codes would precede the code for measles, mumps or rubella:

O35.3 Maternal care for (suspected) damage to fetus from viral disease in mother; and

O98.5 Other viral diseases complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.

b. In the case where a baby is admitted due to measles, mumps or rubella acquired after birth but within 28 days of birth (perinatal period), a code from the following categories would precede the code for measles, mumps or rubella, which would be in a secondary position:

P35-P39 Infections specific to the perinatal period.

*4. Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*5. Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in national health service practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

*6. Ungrossed data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are ungrossed.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## Infant Foods

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to parents of *(a)* preparing and providing formula milk as the only or main food for and *(b)* breastfeeding an infant from birth to six months of age. [281476]

**Gillian Merron:** Breast milk is the best nutrition for infants. Exclusively breastfeeding an infant from birth to six months of age involves negligible cost to parents. We have estimated the amount of formula milk required for infants from birth to six months based on energy requirements set by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy.

At the current price the estimated cost for providing formula milk as a sole food for infants from birth to six months would be approximately £180 to £210. This estimate excludes the cost of additional equipment required for formula feeding such as the feeding bottles, teats and sterilisation equipment.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of permitting the purchase of infant formula with Healthy Start Scheme vouchers on *(a)* attitudes towards breastfeeding and *(b)* the number of mothers who breastfeed. [281477]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department has not yet undertaken an evaluation of the attitudes of Healthy Start beneficiaries towards breastfeeding, or of the extent to which they purchase infant formula milk with their Healthy Start vouchers. We are, however, planning to commission research on the impact of the scheme on beneficiary behaviour during the current financial year.

Healthy Start vouchers can be used to purchase infant formula milk because it is the only safe alternative to breast milk for infants who are not being breastfed. To exclude it from the scheme could put the babies of low income mothers who have chosen not to breastfeed at severe risk. All communication materials for the scheme advise that breast milk is the best food for all infants under six months old. Midwives and health professionals countersigning Healthy Start application forms are asked to provide advice on healthy diet, including the importance of breastfeeding and to signpost relevant services.

## Learning Disability

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1223-24W, on learning disability, by what date he expects NHS bodies and councils with social services responsibilities to satisfy themselves that failures similar to those identified by the Health Service Commissioner are not ongoing; how he intends to assess progress in that regard; whether he has directed the Care Quality Commission to take the Commissioner's report into account; what steps he plans to take to *(a)* implement and *(b)* monitor progress against the Commission's recommendations; and from which departmental budget payments for compensation for distress will be drawn. [281110]

**Phil Hope:** In November 2008, David Nicholson, chief executive of the national health service, wrote to all strategic health authorities (SHAs) to seek assurance that action is being taken across the NHS organisations in their area to promote disability equality and to implement the recommendations in "Healthcare for All", the report of Sir Jonathan Michael's independent inquiry on access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities. SHAs have since given a clear commitment to supporting and monitoring implementation of the independent inquiry recommendations in their areas.

The delivery plan for Valuing People Now, the Government's new three-year strategy for people with learning disabilities, sets out the systems in place to ensure improvements across all services, including better health and healthcare for people with learning disabilities. The national Learning Disabilities Programme Board has overall responsibility for assuring delivery of Valuing People Now. Each area has a local Learning Disability Partnership Board, which will report annually through their regional board on the action they have taken.

The Valuing People Now healthcare steering group, which includes representation from the Care Quality Commission, has specific responsibility for overseeing delivery of the commitments on better healthcare for people with learning disabilities. It is also working with SHAs to ensure that the ombudsmen's recommendations are met, including ensuring that all NHS organisations review the systems, capacity and capability they have in place to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities and report on this by March 2010.

Individual cases should be considered at a local level, following the usual routes for redress, where appropriate.

## Local Involvement Networks

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been made available to local involvement networks in Stoke-on-Trent; and what assessment has been made of their effectiveness. [281828]

**Ann Keen:** The allocation for 2008-09 made by the local authority for the Stoke-on-Trent local involvement network (LINk) was £0.61 million.

The legal duty to ensure LINk activities are carried on rests with local authorities. It is their responsibility to make sure that the contract with the host organisation provides that the support given to the LINk ensures the LINk is as effective as possible.

Each year LINks must produce an annual report setting out what they have achieved, the activities they have undertaken, the money they have spent on their activities and the impact they have had. Reports have to be completed by 30 June and must be made publicly available. Copies have to be sent to the Department and these will be analysed to see what, if any, additional national support would be appropriate.

## Malnutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1028-29W, on malnutrition, in what ways the British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition's recent report has contributed to his Department's work on *(a)* Dignity in Care, *(b)* Healthy Start, *(c)* Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives and *(d)* other relevant workstreams; and if he will make a statement. [279371]

**Gillian Merron:** The British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition report launched January 2009 has contributed to the work of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board; working to improve nutrition and Dignity in Care in adult social care settings and which in turn has underlined the importance in effective delivery of Healthy Start and the Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives programme.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking in co-operation with other Government departments and agencies to reduce levels of malnutrition. [281244]

**Gillian Merron:** The Department and the Nutrition Summit Stakeholder Group which comprised members from other Government Departments and key agencies collaborated to produce The Nutrition Action Plan 2008. This joint plan collectively addresses nutritional care within hospitals, care homes and the community through the provision of ample and nourishing food, help with eating, modified diets and specialist tube feeding.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to NHS bodies on the diagnosis of malnutrition. [281245]

**Gillian Merron:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued clinical guidelines to national health service bodies on Nutrition Support in Adults in February 2006. This covered the care of patients with malnutrition or at risk of malnutrition, both in hospital or at home. In addition, British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN) has developed guidance to help hospitals and primary care trusts (PCTs) develop their infrastructure to deliver improved food and nutrition support services.

The Malnutrition Advisory Group, a standing committee of BAPEN published its second nutrition screening report on 12 May 2009. MUST is a five-step screening tool to identify adults, who are malnourished, at risk of malnutrition (undernutrition) or obese. It also includes management guidelines which can be used to develop a care plan. It is used in hospitals, community and other care settings and can be used by all care workers.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the NHS of treating diseases related to malnutrition in the last year for which figures are available. [281246]

**Gillian Merron:** This information is not held centrally.

## Malnutrition: Screening

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts have a nutrition *(a)* screening committee and *(b)* a support team. [280493]

**Gillian Merron:** This information is not held centrally.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the inclusion of indicators of malnutrition in joint strategic needs assessments. [280500]

**Gillian Merron:** A core dataset is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081097

## Mental Health Services: Children

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1238W, on children: mental health services, how many of the young people placed on adult mental health wards in each year since 2005-06 were given medication while on such wards. [282012]

**Phil Hope:** This information is not collected centrally.

## NHS Connecting for Health: Expenditure

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* staff, *(b)* office and *(c)* other costs incurred in respect of Connecting for Health in each year since 2004. [282039]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Within the Department, NHS Connecting for Health, which came into being in April 2005, is responsible both for central expenditure necessary for ensuring delivery of the information technology systems under the national programme for information technology, and for maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority.

Relevant information covering all NHS Connecting for Health's responsibilities is shown in the following table.

*£ million*

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total (note 1) | 971.0 | 1,119.7 | 1,195.7 | 1,094.3 |
| Of which : Staff | 139.4 | 149.5 | 142.4 | 129.2 |
| Office | 9.4 | 9.3 | 8.9 | 7.9 |

*Notes:*

1. Total capital and revenue (excludes capital charges).
2. 'Staff' covers the direct employment costs of permanent and temporary NHS personnel employed via the NHS Business Services Authority as host authority, secondees, contractors, and the manpower and non-manpower costs of departmental civil servants.
3. 'Office' includes rents/rates, utilities, office equipment, furniture and fittings.

### NHS Innovation Expo

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which companies have been contracted to provide services for the NHS Innovation Expo event; which services will be provided under each contract; and what the value of each contract is. [278484]

**Gillian Merron:** The companies directly contracted to provide services for the Expo event, the services they are providing, and the value of each contract awarded are as follows:

MIS—provision of event management services (three individual contracts, with values of £249,204, £231,075 and £350,000—a combined total value of £830,279); and

Central Office of Information—provision of project management and co-ordination (contract value £203,350), and communications and media handling (contract value £100,000).

### NHS: Cambridgeshire

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS staff-to-patient ratio in *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* Peterborough was in each of the last five years. [281686]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not held centrally.

### Nurses

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an estimate of the number of families in receipt of assistance from the Family Nursing Partnership scheme; and if he will make a statement. [282081]

**Ann Keen:** We are currently testing the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) in 30 sites across England. Family recruitment is ongoing, and we estimate these sites will work with approximately 3,000 families. "Healthy lives, brighter futures—the strategy for children and young people's health" (published in February 2009) said the Government wished to expand to 70 pilot sites by April 2011. Overall, this would allow capacity to deliver FNP to around 7,000 families.

### Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 40 of his Department's document, "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: One Year On", of April 2009, whether an assessment of an individual's weight at an NHS health check will include an assessment with a nutritional screening tool. [280862]

**Gillian Merron:** National guidance to support local implementation of NHS health check programme does not recommend that a nutritional screening tool is used as part of the risk assessment. However, where an individual's body mass index is considered to be a risk factor in terms of vascular disease it is expected that they will receive advice and support on managing their weight, which would cover both nutrition and physical activity.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 40 of his Department's document, "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: One Year On", of April 2009, whether individuals assessed as being underweight at an NHS health check will be referred onwards to nutritional support services. [280863]

**Gillian Merron:** The purpose of an NHS health check is to identify an individual's risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease, for this risk to be communicated in a way that the individual understands, and for that risk to be managed by appropriate follow-up. These diseases are all linked by a common set of modifiable risk factors. Obesity, physical inactivity, high blood pressure and raised cholesterol levels all raise the risk of vascular disease. While the NHS health check focuses on reducing these risk factors in order to reduce the risk of vascular disease, health professionals carrying out the checks will of course have the opportunity to identify people who are seriously underweight and will be able to exercise their clinical judgment in referring them for appropriate treatment or intervention.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to publish the final report of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board. [280899]

**Phil Hope:** When the Nutrition Action Plan was published in October 2007, the Department made a public commitment that the final report of the Delivery Board would be published and placed on the Department's website. A copy of the report will also be placed in the Library.

### Occupational Health

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to implement the recommendations made in the Working for a Healthier Tomorrow report. [280748]

**Phil Hope:** The Government response to Dame Carol Black's review of the health of the Britain's working age population "Working for a Healthier Tomorrow" was published on 25 November 2008 (Cm 7492). "Improving health and work: changing lives" sets out the Government's approach to working-age health and contains a programme of actions and new initiatives to address the recommendations made by Dame Carol in her review.

### Patient Choice Schemes: Expenditure

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on the GP Systems of Choice programme in each year since its inception. [282040]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** GP Systems of Choice (GPSoC) was introduced in August 2007. To 31 March 2009, payments made to GPSoC suppliers totalled some £18.959 million. GP systems were in use by practices before GPSoC was introduced. Therefore these costs would have been incurred by the national health service regardless of whether or not GPSoC was introduced.

### Sick Leave: Yorkshire

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of *(a)* absence and *(b)* absence resulting from ill-health was among NHS employees in Yorkshire in 2008-09; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such absences; and if he will make a statement. [281725]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not held centrally.

The Department recognises that high quality care needs a high quality workforce, so in November 2008, the then Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson), announced a review of the health and wellbeing of the NHS Workforce. The review is currently calling for evidence from employers, staff and key stakeholders.

### Social Services: Learning Disability

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with a learning disability receive social care. [281484]

**Phil Hope:** During the period 1 April to 31 March 2008, 126,000 adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities and 14,000 adults aged 65 and over with learning disabilities received a social care service funded either partly or wholly by their council with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) in England following a community care assessment.

Data on the number of people receiving social services funded either fully or partially by CASSR in England are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care as part of the referrals, assessments and packages of care (RAP) return.

### Swine Flu: Medical Treatments

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of those diagnosed with swine influenza have been treated with *(a)* Tamiflu and *(b)* Relenza. [280632]

**Gillian Merron:** Health Protection Agency records, to date, suggest that 99 per cent. of confirmed H1N1 cases are offered Tamiflu (Oseltamivir), and approximately 1 per cent. are offered Relenza (Zanamivir).

### Teenage Pregnancy: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of *(a)* conception usage and *(b)* pregnancy terminated by abortion was among those under the age of 18 years in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years. [280877]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the rate of *(a)* conception and *(b)* pregnancy terminated by abortion was among those under the age of 18 years in Milton Keynes in each of the last five years.(280877)

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

The table below provides the rate of *(a)* conceptions and *(b)* conceptions leading to a legal abortion, among girls aged under 18, for Milton Keynes unitary authority for 2003 to 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available).

*Rate of (a) conceptions[1] and (b) conceptions leading to a legal abortion, among girls aged under 18[1], for Milton Keynes Unitary authority 2003 to 2007*

| | *(a) Conceptions: Rate per 1000*[2] | *(b) Conceptions leading to a legal abortion: Rate per 1,000*[3] |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 40.4 | 13.7 |
| 2004 | 41.6 | 18.6 |
| 2005 | 46.1 | 23.8 |
| 2006 | 44.5 | 22.8 |
| 2007[4] | 39.1 | 20.7 |

[1] Under 18 years at estimated date of conception
[2] Number of conceptions to women under 18 per 1,000 female population aged 15-17
[3] Number of conceptions to women under 18 leading to a legal abortion per 1,000 female population aged 15-17
[4] Figures for 2007 are provisional

### Thrombosis

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects venous thromboembolism to be included in the NHS Operating Framework. [281662]

**Ann Keen:** We expect venous thromboembolism (VTE) will be included in the 2010-11 national health service Operating Framework, which will be published later in the year.

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to develop a venous thromboembolism prevention strategy; [281663]

(2) what assessment he made of the merits of including venous thromboembolism risk assessment in the full NHS list of indicators for quality improvement. [281749]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has a very comprehensive venous thromboembolism (VTE) prevention strategy in place at present. Under the leadership of the Chief Medical Officer, many strands of work are being taken forward across a number of organisations.

Indicators for Quality Improvement was launched in May 2009 as a resource to support understanding and improving the quality of national health service services. The initial list is based largely on existing indicators and will evolve over time to cover a fuller range of NHS services as further indicators are identified and developed.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Cabinet: Glasgow

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of her Department accompanied her to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009. [273933]

**Jim Knight:** For information relation to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

### Children: Maintenance

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents have been prosecuted for *(a)* not providing information and *(b)* providing false information to the Child Support Agency in each year since 2000. [278965]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents have been prosecuted for *(a)* not providing information and *(b)* providing false information to the Child Support Agency in each year since 2000. [278965]

There were a total of 1,440 successful prosecutions in 2008/09. Of these, 1,380 parents were prosecuted for failing to provide information, 15 for providing false information and 45 for other offence types.

The total number of successful prosecutions broken down each year from 2004/05 are included in the attached table. There is no further breakdown available by prosecution type prior to 2008/09 as the system used to record this information is no longer in use. No figures are available prior to 2004/05.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

*Table 1: Successful prosecutions*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 230 |
| 2005-06 | 400 |
| 2006-07 | 480 |
| 2007-08 | 660 |
| 2008-09 | 1,440 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. 2. No prior figures are available before 2004-05. 3. The figures for 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are taken from the old compliance access database which is no longer in use, a breakdown of prosecution "type" can therefore not be included. 4. The figure for 2008-09 is taken from the CriMIS small systems database which provides a breakdown of prosecution type.

### Council Tax Benefit: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport receive 100 per cent. council tax benefit. [279759]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information is not available in the format requested.

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275191]

**Jonathan Shaw:** An analysis of our central accounting system for the three years requested has shown the following amounts paid to suppliers by the Department under the account code "Late Payment of Bills—Interest Paid". The amounts are inclusive of VAT.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 26,400 |
| 2007 | 3,473 |
| 2008 | 9,330 |

The values are annual totals for the Department and its agencies.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 have been recorded in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies in each of the last five years. [281846]

**Jim Knight:** Because the Department handles data relating to millions of individual customers on a daily basis, small localised data incidents are dealt with as they arise. These are not recorded centrally by the Department or its agencies, and consequently the details of such incidents could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

More significant incidents which involve personal data are reported to the Information Commissioner as a matter of course. Under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008, the Department is required to provide a summary of such incidents in its annual resource accounts.

The Department has published details of incidents arising during 2007-08 in the annual resource account which was published on 13 August 2008. We will be publishing information on incidents reported to the Information Commissioner during 2008-09 in the next resource accounts. The information is currently being compiled and verified before it is laid before Parliament.

## Departmental Electricity

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the percentage of electricity used by her Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280969]

**Jim Knight:** The following table gives details of the percentage of renewable energy used by the Department for Work and Pensions.

| | *Energy from renewable sources* | *Percentage Good quality combined heat and power sources* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 33.5 | 9 |
| 2007-08 | 34 | 43 |

The Department took a deliberate decision to reduce its percentage renewables in 2007-08 to allow an increase in CHP generated supplies and an overall increase from 62.5 per cent. to 77 per cent.

## Departmental Internet

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1636-8W, on the departmental internet, how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions were received by each website operated by her Department in each of the last 12 months. [280793]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* The following tables outline *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page views (page impressions for the Jobcentre Plus website) in line with Cabinet Office guidance, for each of the websites maintained by the Department for Work and Pensions as per the answer of 9 February 2009. We cannot produce all the statistics as DWP does not hold some of the figures and due to some technical difficulties we were unable to collect all the figures for each month.

*Table A: Unique visitors for the websites maintained by the Department for Work and Pensions—2008-09*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Site* | *April* | *May* | *June* | *July* | *August* | *September* | *October* | *November* | *December* |
| DWP | 620,492 | 637,574 | 780,610 | 742,472 | 658,287 | 748,565 | 813,280 | 818,521 | 645,187 |
| JCP | 6,091,767 | 5,671,110 | 6,463,155 | 7,037,643 | 6,297,163 | 8,821,813 | 8,595,983 | 6,656,645 | 5,430,710 |
| CSA | 93,381 | 91,371 | 98,856 | 100,352 | 96,790 | 107,036 | 109,204 | 106,534 | 83,589 |
| AP | 15,105 | 19,863 | 23,872 | 16,594 | 11,405 | 12,258 | 8,472 | 7,929 | 6,092 |
| ESF | 6,590 | 10,136 | 11,115 | 9,453 | 8,165 | 9,250 | 9,874 | 12,227 | 8,704 |
| ICE | 1,505 | 1,496 | 2,006 | 1,773 | 1,831 | 1,550 | 1,642 | 1,499 | 1,265 |
| IIAC | 1,631 | 1,495 | 1,550 | 1,506 | 1,264 | 1,402 | 1,404 | 1,262 | 1,034 |
| SBCA | 1,135 | 1,510 | 1,594 | 1,037 | 976 | 979 | 1,047 | 1,073 | 1,044 |
| ODI | 6,459 | 8,126 | 7,799 | 9,351 | 7,031 | [1] | [1] | 8,734 | 9,524 |
| DG-D | 1,434,791 | 1,164,606 | 1,343,904 | 315,293 | 292,016 | 330,801 | 330,623 | [1] | [1] |
| DG-C | 89,435 | 76,258 | 85,006 | 85,562 | 79,562 | 90,968 | 95,233 | 91,746 | 69,344 |
| DG 50+ | 162,296 | 117,783 | 127,308 | 132,785 | 134,161 | 156,189 | 155,105 | 158,924 | 119,692 |
| TPS | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 304,843 | 307,620 | 339,208 | 244,997 |
| Total | 8,524,587 | 7,801,328 | 8,826,795 | 8,454,025 | 7,588,649 | 10,583,614 | 10,649,287 | 8,225,144 | 6,621,382 |

| | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Site* | *January* | *February* | *March* |
| DWP | 1,112,470 | 932,698 | 1,008,693 |
| JCP | 10,071,434 | 8,247,216 | [1] |
| CSA | 132,020 | 109,267 | [1] |
| AP | 8,414 | 8,592 | [1] |
| ESF | 10,645 | 10,145 | [1] |
| ICE | 1,783 | 1,625 | [1] |
| IIAC | 1,395 | 1,384 | [1] |
| SBCA | 1,328 | 1,141 | [1] |
| ODI | 10,680 | [1] | [1] |
| DG-D | [1] | 384,992 | [1] |
| DG-C | 139,362 | 110,703 | [1] |
| DG 50+ | 256,358 | 204,867 | 327,434 |
| TPS | 412,872 | 337,812 | 487,977 |
| Total | 12,148,531 | 10,350,142 | 1,724,104 |

*Table B: Page views for the websites maintained by the Department for Work and Pensions—2008-09*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Site* | *April* | *May* | *June* | *July* | *August* | *September* | *October* | *November* | *December* |
| DWP | 4,890,895 | 4,632,534 | 5,467,135 | 5,481,316 | 4,823,111 | 5,255,207 | 5,840,085 | 5,675,631 | 4,578,694 |
| JCP | 279,358,470 | 250,206,608 | 290,661,873 | 302,481,658 | 271,781,484 | 308,875,532 | 302,104,417 | 266,874,017 | 179,521,943 |
| CSA | 693,879 | 623,741 | 710,818 | 703,331 | 669,090 | 753,074 | 770,977 | 721,481 | 550,725 |
| AP | 64,450 | 77,281 | 85,586 | 67,995 | 49,610 | 47,653 | 35,317 | 33,739 | 28,350 |
| ESF | 35,240 | 58,541 | 63,781 | 48,604 | 51,520 | 57,699 | 54,395 | 62,070 | 44,399 |
| ICE | 24,112 | 24,328 | 24,046 | 25,047 | 26,334 | 20,945 | 20,229 | 23,312 | 29,862 |
| IIAC | 18,911 | 19,293 | 18,302 | 18,395 | 18,488 | 16,534 | 16,764 | 18,587 | 17,903 |
| SBCA | 18,403 | 20,187 | 18,561 | 18,166 | 18,631 | 17,356 | 17,036 | 45,590 | 18,453 |

*Table B: Page views for the websites maintained by the Department for Work and Pensions—2008-09*

| | 2008 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Site* | *April* | *May* | *June* | *July* | *August* | *September* | *October* | *November* | *December* |
| ODI | 52,021 | 57,474 | 53,154 | 58,098 | 48,873 | [1]— | [1]— | 49,760 | 57,367 |
| DG-D | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 1,291,101 | 1,206,271 | 1,321,886 | 1,390,235 | [1]— | [1]— |
| DG-C | 327,393 | 279,429 | 315,728 | 321,083 | 298,200 | 331,579 | 357,209 | 357,971 | 265,159 |
| DG 50+ | 434,884 | 294,965 | 321,516 | 336,221 | 349,620 | 389,937 | 400,452 | 416,613 | 304,269 |
| TPS | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 2,815,695 | 2,954,131 | 3,155,462 | 2,159,900 |
| Total | 285,918,658 | 256,294,381 | 297,740,400 | 310,851,015 | 279,341,232 | 319,903,097 | 313,961,447 | 277,434,233 | 187,577,024 |

| | 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Site* | *January* | *February* | *March* |
| DWP | 7,693,486 | 6,311,548 | 7,648,495 |
| JCP | 350,647,463 | 298,532,534 | 324,713,314 |
| CSA | 901,912 | 741,673 | [1]— |
| AP | 35,569 | 35,529 | [1]— |
| ESF | 53,056 | 50,377 | [1]— |
| ICE | 25,457 | 23,345 | [1]— |
| IIAC | 19,055 | 17,811 | [1]— |
| SSCA | 19,755 | 17,807 | [1]— |
| ODI | 57,772 | [1]— | [1]— |
| DG-D | [1]— | 1,566,846 | [1]— |
| DG-C | 472,298 | 406,136 | [1]— |
| DG 50+ | 678,359 | 565,034 | 626,209 |
| TPS | 3,820,139 | 3,137,296 | 4,724,905 |
| Total | 364,424,321 | 311,405,936 | 337,712,923 |

[1] Not collected.

*KEY:*

*DWP*
Department for Work and Pensions:
www.dwp.gov.uk

*JCP*
Jobcentre Plus:
www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

*CSA*
Child Support Agency:
www.csa.gov.uk

*AP*
Age Positive:
www.agepositive.gov.uk this site closed in February 2009

*ESF*
European Social Fund:
www.esf.gov.uk

*ICE*
Independent Case Examiner:
www.ind-case-exam.org.uk (DWP hosts the website but is not responsible for the content)

*IIAC*
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council:
www.iiac.org.uk (DWP hosts the website but is not responsible for the content)

*SSAC*
Social Security Advisory Committee:
www.ssac.org.uk (DWP hosts the website but is not responsible for the content)

*ODI*
Office for Disability Issues:
www.officefordisability.gov.uk

*DG-D*
Directgov Disabled People and Carers Sections:
www.direct.gov.uk/disability (Directgov operate the website but DWP is responsible for the content)

*DG-C*
Directgov Disabled People and Carers Sections:
www.direct.gov.uk/carers (Directgov operate the website but DWP is responsible for the content)

*DG 50+*
Directgov Over 50s Section (now re-titled Pensions and Retirement Planning):
www.direct.gov.uk/over50s (Directgov operate the website but DWP is responsible for the content)

*TPS*
The Pension Service:
www.thepensionservice.gov.uk

*Notes:*
1. Data are not held for the Health and Safety Executive website:
www.hse.gov.uk
2. Data are not collected for Now Lets Talk Money website:
www.nowletstalkmoney.com
or Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force website: www.emetaskforce.gov.uk

## Departmental Press: Subscriptions

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to which *(a)* magazines, *(b)* journals and *(c)* newspapers her Department subscribes; and what the total cost of such subscriptions has been in each of the last three years. [280762]

**Jim Knight:** Annex A (magazines and journals) and annex B (newspapers) listing magazines, journals and newspapers subscribed to by the Department for Work and Pensions has been placed in the Library.

Information on the cost of subscriptions in each of the last three years is set out in the following table.

£

| *Financial year* | *Newspaper/magazine spend* | *Periodical spend* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 73,794.25 | 134,642.74 |
| 2007-08 | 56,364.35 | 138,063.72 |
| 2008-09 | 42,389.51 | 167,444.62 |

## Departmental Telephone Services

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria her Department uses to monitor the performance of its callbacks to telephone benefit claimants; and what percentage of customers who request a callback were contacted in the latest period for which figures are available. [278377]

**Jim Knight:** I have asked the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre Directorate Acting Operations Director, Stuart Griffiths, to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stuart Griffiths, dated 19 June 2009:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what criteria the Department of Work and Pensions uses to monitor the performance of its callbacks to telephone benefit claimants; and what percentage of customers who request a callback are contacted. [PQ 278377]

I will respond on behalf of Jobcentre Plus (including Benefit and Fraud Directorate) and Pension, Disability and Carers Service.

*Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre Directorate*

The criteria Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre Directorate use to monitor the performance of pre-booked callbacks is that 90% of callbacks are completed within 36 hours. This includes customers who answer their callback, and also customers who we are unable to contact after two telephone calls. Therefore, we call back 100% of customers who request it. If we are unable to contact a customer due to their unavailability, a letter is sent informing them that Jobcentre Plus has tried to telephone them, and to call us again if they still wish to make a claim.

For 2008/09, 92.6% of callbacks were completed within 36 hours.

For April 2009, 97.6% of callbacks were completed within 36 hours.

*Benefit and Fraud Directorate*

Benefit and Fraud Directorate telephony teams aim to clear 80% of first time calls from customers, with approximately 20% referred for a potential callback. If a callback is required by the customer, this is emailed to benefit processing teams with an expectation that callbacks will be made within three hours of the initial customer contact. All customers requesting a callback will receive one.

*Pension, Disability and Carers Service*

The information requested is not available in the Pension, Disability and Carers Service.

I hope this reply is helpful.

### Disability Discrimination Act 2005

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that *(a)* her Department and *(b)* contractors comply with relevant provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 in processing benefit claims from those with a mental health condition; [277833]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that *(a)* her Department and *(b)* contractors comply with relevant provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 in respect of those with a mental health condition in (i) allocating and (ii) administering work experience and work trial placements. [279555]

**Jonathan Shaw:** All public authorities are subject to the Disability Equality Duty which requires them to pay due regard to promoting disability when carrying out all of their functions. Some public authorities are also required to publish a Disability Equality Scheme setting out how they will meet the Disability Equality Duty.

The Department published Single Equality Schemes, incorporating disability, race and gender, in 2008. These schemes include a three-year action plan setting out how the Department and its agencies intend to meet their three Public Sector Duties and how they will equality impact assess their policies and practices against them.

In respect of the Disability Equality Duty, they also set out how disabled people have been involved in producing the schemes and setting the direction of travel that would best achieve improvements in outcomes for disabled people. The scheme action plans are monitored and formal progress reports are published annually. All schemes and information can be found on the DWP website.

Where the Department is providing services to the public or delivering public functions, it is required by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to make reasonable adjustments to enable disabled people to have access to those services or functions.

There is mandatory training in place for all DWP staff to ensure they have the appropriate cultural and legislative knowledge to understand their responsibilities when developing policies or providing services for disabled customers, including those with a mental health condition.

The provisions in place that ensure a contractor complies with the relevant provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 are contained in our standard terms and conditions. Section 37 "Unlawful Discrimination" states "the Contractor shall not unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of the Race Relations Act 1976, the Sex-Discrimination Act 1975 or the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 or analogous legislation which has been, or may be, enacted from time to time relating to discrimination in employment."

Contract managers review compliance with disability discrimination legislation periodically as part of their supplier relationship management procedures.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the Future Jobs Fund. [282050]

**Jim Knight:** The future jobs fund is an important new initiative announced in the Budget 2009 worth £1 billion to create 150,000 new jobs both for young people and individuals living in unemployment hotspots. We are inviting bids from a wide range of organisations and partnerships including those from the sport and creative industries to create valuable jobs that bring real benefits to individuals and their communities.

The previous Secretary of State for Work and Pensions met with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to discuss ways to ensure the sport and culture industries are able to put together strong bids to the fund and deliver jobs in these industries as early as October 2009.

Building on this, officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Work and Pensions have been working closely together to ensure the sport and creative industries play a prominent role in the jobs created through the future jobs fund and we expect to receive a number of bids from organisations in these areas when we start assessing bids from July 2009 onwards.

It is important that we engage with individuals who are approaching long-term unemployment to help them move into fulfilling and valuable employment that will help Britain prepare for economic recovery. The future jobs fund will provide organisations with the funding to do this and make a real contribution to the lives of individuals and their communities.

### Health and Safety Executive

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she plans to take to establish the nuclear directorate within the Health and Safety Executive on a statutory basis. [279351]

**Jonathan Shaw:** My officials have been working closely with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Health and Safety Executive to develop proposals to give effect to the Government's decision to restructure the nuclear directorate through legislation. We expect to publish proposals for public consultation in the near future.

## Motability

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Motability cars were being used in England and Wales on the latest date for which figures are available; how much funding from the public purse was contributed towards the cost of adapted vehicles for the scheme in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [280711]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There are currently 431,241 Motability cars being used in England and Wales. Details of funding provided to Motability are in the following table.

*Funding provided to Motability*

£000

| | Specialised vehicles fund | Administration |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 8,375 | 2,700 |
| 2005-06 | 8,615 | 2,800 |
| 2006-07 | 9,087 | 2,800 |
| 2007-08 | 12,700 | 2,960 |
| 2008-09 | 17,036 | 2,960 |

*Notes:*
Motability administers the specialised vehicles fund on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. The Fund provides financial assistance to those disabled drivers or passengers on the scheme who require extensive adaptations to their vehicles. The majority of these adaptations allow the disabled person to travel as a passenger, where necessary entering the vehicle and travelling while remaining seated in a wheelchair.
*Source:*
Motability.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the savings which would accrue to her Department if cars used for the Motability scheme were changed every six years; and if she will make a statement. [280712]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Motability is an independent charity and is responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme. We have no reason to believe that this Department would accrue any savings if Motability changed their cars every six years.

## New Deal Schemes

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many persons registered for each category of the New Deal programme at Jobcentre Plus in the last six months. [281257]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* Figures on new starters on the new deals are shown in the following table. The six-month period used here is up to and including February 2009.

| | Starters (individuals) in last six months |
|---|---|
| New Deal for Young People | 97,880 |
| New Deal 25-plus | 51,330 |
| New Deal for Lone Parents | 90,040 |
| New Deal for Disabled People | 16,190 |
| New Deal for Partners | 1,110 |
| Total | 256,550 |

*Definitions and conventions:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
*Notes:*
1. Latest data are to February 2009.
2. The total starters exclude those customers on new deal 50-plus as these figures have been withdrawn pending an investigation of the data source.
3. This information is published at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/tabtool_nd.asp
*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

## New Deal Schemes: Hertfordshire

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in East Hertfordshire have participated in a new deal programme in each of the last three years. [280124]

**Jim Knight:** The following table sets out the number of people who started participation in a new deal programme in the East Hertfordshire district in the last three years.

| | New deal starters |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 310 |
| 2007 | 350 |
| 2008 | 270 |

*Definitions and conventions:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
*Time series—year of starting:*
The calendar year of starting new deal. Latest data are to February 2009.
1. The totals for each year exclude those customers on new deal 50-plus as these figures have been withdrawn pending an investigation of the data source
2. The measure used for new deal for partners is starters (individuals) as spells are not available for this new deal.
3. Since June 2008, new deal for disabled people has ceased to operate as a national programme
*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

## Social Fund

**Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding the Government plans to allocate to the Social Fund in 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [268701]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Additional funding for social fund loans was announced in the Chancellor's Budget report on 22 April 2009, to ensure that support can continue to be provided during the economic downturn. As a result, the previous gross loans budget for Great Britain for 2009-10 was increased. The current discretionary social fund budgets for Great Britain are given in the table.

*Discretionary social fund budgets for Great Britain for 2009-10*

£ million

| | |
|---|---|
| Gross loans | 650 |
| Community care grants | 141 |
| Contingency reserve | 1 |

The regulated social fund is demand led, so there are no fixed budgets. All the funds necessary to pay claimants entitled to an award will be made available.

### Unemployment: Older Workers

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps her Department has taken to assist unemployed people over the age of 50 years to find work. [282052]

**Jim Knight:** The Government are committed to giving everyone the support they need to find employment as quickly as possible, whatever their age.

A major factor in the employment of older people is employer behaviour. In addition to providing generic good practice guidance to employers, the UK's Age Positive initiative is working in partnership with business leaders to develop sector-based models of flexible retirement to support the increased employment and retention of older workers and the removal of fixed retirement ages.

Our plans for the future include providing guidance to older workers on their options for working longer, encouraging employers to increase flexible work and phased retirement opportunities, and monitoring the impact of the economic downturn to identify which groups are being most affected and targeting further help where it is most needed.

On 6 April 2009, as part of the Government's response to the economic downturn, the Department for Work and Pensions put in place extra support for newly unemployed customers, including information and advice about the latest job search techniques and coaching on how to make the most of transferable skills. Extra help for those who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months was also introduced, including opportunities to volunteer, support to become self-employed, recruitment subsidies and work-focused training.

Since last autumn, the Department has also quadrupled the available funding for the rapid response service, which provides advice and support to customers facing redundancy. It has extended local employment partnerships, the adviser discretion fund and access to work so they are available to customers from the first day of their claim, alongside the support they receive from their Jobcentre Plus personal adviser.

The introduction of the flexible new deal across phase 1 areas from October 2010 will give providers the freedom to offer personalised, tailored support to everyone who has been claiming jobseeker's allowance for 12 months, helping them overcome their individual barriers to work.

This will be available to jobseeker's allowance customers of all ages to ensure that everyone has the best possible chance of finding work.

In addition, the budget announced the future jobs fund and young persons guarantee. Future jobs fund places will be available for older people from disadvantaged areas who are facing significant barriers to employment.

### Child Benefit: Lancashire

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families received child benefit in each parliamentary constituency in Lancashire in the latest period for which figures are available. [282058]

**Mr. Timms:** I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the number of child trust fund accounts opened for children born on or before 5 April 2007, in each parliamentary constituency, are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

Latest estimates of the average number of families benefiting from tax credits, as well as the average number of in-work families benefiting from the child care element in each Government office region, local authority and parliamentary constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised annual awards. Geographical analyses 2006-07". This publication is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit. Information is not yet available for 2007-08 at parliamentary constituency level. Further information can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tc-delay-07-08.htm

Latest estimates of the number of families who were claiming child benefit in the areas requested are provided in the HMRC annual publication "Child Benefit geographical statistics. August 2006", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

Figures for August 2007 are not yet available.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the establishment of a US Emissions Trading Scheme. [280357]

**Mr. Kidney:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular discussions with his counterparts in the US Administration on US climate and energy policy, including proposals currently before the US Congress to establish a US emissions trading scheme.

### Carbon Emissions: Government Departments

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of progress towards meeting the target of making the central Government estate carbon neutral by 2012. [266782]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Energy and Climate Change is currently leading work to define what is meant by carbon neutrality for the Government and the private sector. Once this work is complete, the Government will review the target for the central Government office estate to be carbon neutral by 2012 and the implications for departmental delivery.

## Carbon Emissions: Housing

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many grant applications were received by the Low Carbon Buildings programme in respect of *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) West Chelmsford constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in each year since the inception of the programme. [278396]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The following grant applications were received by the Low Carbon Buildings programme in respect of *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public buildings in (i) West Chelmsford constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in each year since the inception of the scheme.

*Low Carbon Buildings Programme: phase 1*

*Communities stream*

*Number of applications*

| | *West Chelmsford* | *Essex* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2006-07* | | | |
| Schools | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| Other Public Buildings | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| *2007-08* | | | |
| Schools | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Other Public Buildings | 0 | 0 | 5 |

*Stream 2A (below £100,000)*

*Number of applications*

| | *West Chelmsford* | *Essex* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2006-07* | | | |
| Schools | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Hospitals | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Public Buildings | 0 | 0 | 23 |
| *2007-08* | | | |
| Schools | 0 | 1 | 28 |
| Hospitals | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Public Buildings | 0 | 1 | 45 |

*Stream 2B (Above £100,000)*

*Number of applications*

| | *West Chelmsford* | *Essex* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2006-07* | | | |
| Schools | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hospitals | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Public Buildings | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| *2007-08* | | | |
| Schools | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Hospitals | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Other Public Buildings | 0 | 1 | 7 |

*Note:*
Some applications were resubmitted so these are not all unique applications.

*Low Carbon Buildings Programme: phase 2*

| *Type of organisation* | *For year* | *West Chelmsford* | *Essex* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Schools | 2006-07 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| | 2007-08 | 0 | 2 | 196 |
| | 2008-09 | 0 | 6 | 475 |
| | 2009-10 | 0 | 1 | 95 |
| Hospitals | 2006-07 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2007-08 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2008-09 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| | 2009-10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other public buildings | 2006-07 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| | 2007-08 | 1 | 1 | 140 |
| | 2008-09 | 0 | 6 | 199 |
| | 2009-10 | 1 | 1 | 55 |
| Total (phase 2) | | 2 | 18 | 1,167 |

*Note:*
Number of grant applications received (includes accepted, submitted (currently being processed), withdrawn and rejected).

## Carbon Emissions: Research

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned on strategies to deliver a low-carbon economy. [281296]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change has an ongoing programme of work on what a low carbon future for the UK might look like, including strategies for delivering a low carbon economy.

As part of this, DECC has conducted and commissioned a range of research, including to model scenarios for reducing energy system $CO_2$ emissions, and worked with partners on analysis of possible technology options for the future of energy supply and demand.

In addition, research has been carried out in other Departments to support policy development in this area. As part of its work to understand the costs and benefits of the Climate Change Act, DEFRA commissioned analysis of the costs of meeting the UK's climate change targets; and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills commissioned a report to support the development of the Government's low carbon industrial strategy, which will be published in the summer.

Government's analysis of policy options has also taken account of research commissioned and conducted by organisations outside Government, both in the UK and elsewhere.

## Community Energy Savings Programme

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which areas will be covered by the Community Energy Savings Programme; and what the delivery mechanisms for the programme will be. [281590]

**Joan Ruddock:** Proposals for the delivery mechanisms for the community energy saving programme (CESP)

and which areas to target were set out in the CESP consultation document published on 12 February. The consultation closed on 8 May.

We are considering the outcomes of this consultation and aim to make announcements shortly.

### Departmental Energy

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps have been taken by his Department to improve the thermal efficiency of its buildings in the last 12 months. [266757]

**Mr. Kidney:** Since DECC's inception, BERR and DEFRA manage the Department's estate. Given that, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Natural and Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs on 23 April 2009, *Official Report,* column 816W, and by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 31 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 1180.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has drawn up a shortlist of potential special advisers on the development of national policy statements on *(a)* wind farms and *(b)* nuclear power plants; what remuneration will be provided to such advisers; and what criteria will be used to select them. [279469]

**Mr. Kidney:** We have not drawn up a shortlist of potential special advisers on the development of national policy statements on *(a)* wind farms and *(b)* nuclear power plants and currently have no plans to do so.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on hospitality and entertainment since its inception. [273891]

**Joan Ruddock:** £117,600.00.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidance his Department has issued to staff on claiming for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats available in standard class. [268468]

**Joan Ruddock:** Staff who are not ordinarily entitled to travel by rail in first class are advised that may do so in the following circumstances:

when travelling with a colleague entitled to first class travel

when no standard class seats (except on suburban lines) are available

when there is a genuine business need.

These guidelines are consistent with the practice of other Government Departments.

### Energy Supply

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the report of the Special Representative of the Prime Minister on International Energy Issues on global energy trends and the implications for Britain's energy security will be published; and if he will make a statement. [280350]

**Mr. Kidney:** We expect the report of my right hon. Friend the Member for Croydon, North (Malcolm Wicks) to be published in the summer.

### Energy: Billing

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure energy *(a)* bills and *(b)* tariffs are understandable to consumers. [279983]

**Mr. Kidney:** DECC firmly believes that consumers should be able to access the information they need to allow them to make the right decisions about energy use, tariffs and suppliers.

It is important to reach the right balance so that consumers have enough information but are not obstructed by too much or poorly presented information. Ofgem has recently held a public consultation on proposals for new obligations on suppliers relating to consumer information, in order to take the various views of interested parties into account. We look forward to seeing results from that process in order to get the best result for consumers.

### Energy: Conservation

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent in respect of the British Gas council tax rebate scheme for energy efficiency measures; what criteria are used for the allocation of such funding; and what proportion of the costs of the scheme is met by local authorities. [280041]

**Mr. Kidney:** The scheme in question is not managed, funded or monitored by this Department. The information requested is held by British Gas and their associated local authorities and cannot be provided by DECC.

### Energy: Domestic Appliances

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of progress in introducing energy-efficient domestic appliances in the UK. [281264]

**Dan Norris:** I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA's "Policy Analysis and Projections", published in July 2008, contains such an assessment. It also sets out how the efficiency of products will need to improve in order to meet the Government's targets of annual savings of 3.6-11 million tonnes of $CO_2$ from efficient products by 2020, as set out in May 2007's Energy White Paper.

The analysis was published after a full consultation in spring 2008 and can be found at

www.mtprog.com/whitepaper.

In line with the Government's commitment to consult annually on these projections, the analysis will be issued for a second consultation in summer 2009. The second consultation will contain updated projections of the $CO_2$ savings resulting from the introduction of energy-efficient products for both the domestic and non-domestic sectors.

### EU Emissions Trading Scheme

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of progress towards liberalisation of the European energy market. [280358]

**Mr. Kidney:** I welcome the progress being made on the development of the internal energy market, especially the recent agreement of texts for the third liberalisation package. This legislation will come into force early in 2011 and will benefit consumers through the development of more competition, especially between member states, and by enhancing security of supply. In order to improve the operation of the market, the UK is encouraging member states to implement early and on a voluntary basis those elements of the package related to transparency and co-operation between national regulators and system operators.

### Fuel Poverty

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to meet the Government's 2010 target to eradicate fuel poverty in *(a)* vulnerable households with a disabled person and *(b)* all vulnerable households. [241930]

**Mr. Kidney:** Tackling fuel poverty is a priority for the Government. Our present policies and programmes, in particular with the changes announced in recent months, underline our commitment to do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that vulnerable households do not live in fuel poverty.

We have set in place a wide range of measures to tackle fuel poverty and so far have spent more than £20 billion on policies and programmes to alleviate fuel poverty.

Since 2000 we have assisted over 2 million households in England in the private sector through the Warm Front Scheme by fitting insulation and heating improvements for households in receipt of means-tested or disability-related benefits. The scheme now has a budget of over £950 million for the spending years 2008-09 to 2010-11.

The Government's programmes also assist vulnerable households through the provision of income-based policies. We have increased the winter fuel payments, which helped keep 12 million people warm last winter, by an extra £50 for pensioners aged 60-79 and £100 for those over 80, and this will continue next winter. We have also increased cold weather payments from £8.50 to £25 per week and made 8.4 million payments worth £210 million between November 2008 and March 2009.

To ensure as many households as possible are eligible for assistance we have arranged for benefit entitlement checks to be carried out through Warm Front. To date some 48,000 checks have been completed. The average increase in income for applicants identifying new benefits is £30.64 per week or £1,590 per year.

A review of our fuel poverty policies is under way. The review is examining whether existing measures to tackle fuel poverty could be made more effective, and whether new policies should be introduced to help us make further progress towards our goals, particularly in light of market conditions and our aims to reduce carbon emissions.

### Hartlepool Power Station

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of Hartlepool nuclear power station. [280708]

**Mr. Kidney:** Future plans for power stations are a commercial matter for companies that own and operate them.

Plans for Hartlepool nuclear power station are an operational matter for British Energy, part of EDF Energy.

### Longannet Power Station

**Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with the management of Longannet power station on recruitment of engineering contractors during the shutdown for maintenance. [270830]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* The Department has had no discussions with Longannet power station management about the recruitment of engineering contractors during the recent shutdown for maintenance.

### Low Carbon Buildings Programme

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will undertake to provide sufficient funding to provide grants to all solar photovoltaic technology applications under phase 2 of the low carbon buildings programme which meet the eligibility criteria and which are submitted between 23 March 2009 and September 2009. [280193]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 16 June 2009]:* The Government have committed a further £45 million to the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) in the recent Budget. This now brings support for the programme to over £130 million. The new funding will help to support more solar PV installations, alongside other renewable and low carbon technologies. Since December 2008 we re-allocated £9 million funds from within the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to solar photovoltaic and we recently announced that a further £5 million of the £45 million would be transferred to immediately support solar PV applications.

We have put in place plans to extend Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 to support the full range of microgeneration technologies, including solar PV, from 1 July 2009. Further information is available from the Low Carbon Buildings Website:

http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/home/

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Low Carbon Buildings Programme will receive the £45 million of additional funding allocated in Budget 2009. [280996]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 18 June 2009]:* Following the announcement of the £45 million in the Budget 2009 we allocated £5 million to phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) to support solar photovoltaic applications.

LCBP phase 2 will be extended and start on 1 July with a budget of £30 million supporting charitable organisations, community groups and the public sector.

We have allocated £10 million to LCBP phase 1 to support household installations.

### Natural Gas: Russia

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has held discussions with *(a)* the Russian government and *(b)* the European Commission on recent statements of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin that there were emerging risks surrounding stable gas supplies to Europe this winter. [280886]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* The Government are working closely with EU partners to avoid a further interruption to European gas supplies. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed the matter with President Barroso on 4 June 2009 and there has been subsequent discussion at both the Energy Council on 12 June 2009 and the European Council on 18 and 19 June 2009.

While the UK has had bilateral contacts at official level with both Russia and Ukraine, the first priority should be to establish the facts of the situation and the Government strongly supports the recent European Commission mission to Moscow and Kiev for this purpose.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Apprentices

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the creation of apprenticeships in the construction of the next generation of nuclear power stations. [280709]

**Mr. Kidney:** New nuclear build in the UK has the potential to require 1,000s of workers, with apprentices in the industry and supply chain being an essential part of this workforce.

The National Skills Academy for Nuclear, launched in January 2008, has the responsibility for co-ordinating existing training provision on a regional and national basis, and aims to deliver 1,200 apprenticeships to the industry by the end of 2011 through a number of initiatives.

In addition Cogent, the sector skills council for the nuclear industry, has commissioned in-depth research on the nuclear labour market. This is scoping the demand for skilled workers, including apprentices, in the supply chain for new build, which includes in manufacturing and construction. This will further assist in identifying the training and skills interventions required to be put in place.

There is close working between the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills on these issues.

### Renewable Energy

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the net trading *(a)* gains and *(b)* losses in each local authority area arising from the manufacture and sale of (i) wind turbines and (ii) other means of renewable energy generation. [279128]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The Department supports the development of the manufacturing of renewable energy generation in the UK. This includes creating a supportive policy framework for the deployment of renewable energy in the UK (including long-term support for deployed renewable energy generation), as well as targeted support for the development of next-generation and lower cost wind energy technology. An example is the recently-launched £10 million scheme to support offshore wind deployment under the Environmental Transformation Fund, which aims to stimulate and encourage the development and demonstration of offshore wind technologies, and components for larger turbines, to enable their deployment within 2020 time scales.

However the Department does not hold information on the level of either wind or renewable manufacturing broken down by local authority area.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average time taken for *(a)* solar, *(b)* photovoltaic, *(c)* ground source heat pump, *(d)* air source heat pump and *(e)* biomass microgeneration technologies to produce savings equivalent to their cost; and if he will make a statement. [280118]

**Mr. Kidney:** Payback periods are generally difficult to estimate accurately, because of the huge amount of variation that can come from system costs, system capacity and energy produced, fuel displaced, size of the house and energy prices from different suppliers. Payback periods will also depend on changes in energy prices in the future and as we cannot predict future trends in energy prices, it is very difficult to give an accurate payback period.

The following table details average costs of systems for each technology type and the annual cost savings on fuel bills relative to each technology type where specific assumptions have been made:

| *Technology* | *Average total cost ex VAT (£) for LCBP funded installations (to end May 2009)* | *Possible cost savings from annual fuel bill (as published on EST website)* |
|---|---|---|
| Air source heat pump | 7,400 | £20 to £700 savings on fuel bills per year.[1] |
| Ground source heat pump | 10,800 | £160 to £840 savings on fuel bills per year.[2] |
| Solar PV | 13,000 | Approximately £190 saving on electricity bill per year.[3] |

| Technology | Average total cost ex VAT (£) for LCBP funded installations (to end May 2009) | Possible cost savings from annual fuel bill (as published on EST website) |
|---|---|---|
| Solar thermal hot water | 4,100 | Approx £50 to £85 saving on water heating bill per year.[4] |
| Wood fuelled boiler | 8,900 | £170 to £410 per year if fuel displaced is solid fuel or electricity.[5] |

[1] Savings are approximate and vary depending on the fuel displaced. Assumptions are that the air source heat pump provides 100 per cent. of space heating and up to 50 per cent. of hot water, with the additional 50 per cent. provided by electric heater, in a detached property.
[2] Savings are approximate and vary depending on the fuel displaced. Assumptions are that the ground source heat pump is installed in a detached property which provides 100 per cent. of space heating and up to 50 per cent. of domestic hot water, the additional 50 per cent. is met through an electric heater.
[3] Assumes a 2kWp system with 50 per cent. on site consumption with excess exported to the grid on a typical export tariff (A 2kWp system could provide over 40 per cent. of a household's yearly electricity needs).
[4] Savings are approximate and vary depending on the fuel displaced. Savings are based on the hot water heating requirements of a three-bed semi-detached home with a 3.5 m squared panel.
[5] If you replace a gas or solid fuel system with a wood burning system you may end up paying more for your fuel

Support for householders and communities has been provided through the low carbon buildings programme £131 million grant scheme which has helped with up front costs. The Government are committed to bringing forward feed in tariffs and the renewable heat incentive in April 2010 and April 2011 respectively. These incentives will also play a part in reducing pay back period.

### Renewable Energy: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to source renewable energy supplies for Coventry. [281148]

**Mr. Kidney:** We published last summer a consultation document on measures to meet our target of 15 per cent. renewable energy by 2020. We will publish our renewable energy strategy this summer, detailing an action plan for promoting further renewable energy deployment throughout the UK.

It is for the market to bring forward proposals for renewable energy projects in specific areas.

### Renewable Energy: Pembrokeshire

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of *(a)* the capacity of and *(b)* constraints on the development of potential wave power and tidal power projects off the Pembrokeshire coast. [279455]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Government have recently announced that work was commencing towards a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for English and Welsh waters, which will include the Pembrokeshire coast.

As a first step, we are conducting a screening exercise to understand better the energy generation potential of marine energy devices and the realistic time scales of when multiple devices will be installed and commissioned. The screening exercise will inform planning for the various studies and other activities needed to put in place a strategic environmental assessment for marine energy devices. It will cover wave, tidal stream and tidal range (outside of the Severn estuary) and aims to map environmental sensitivities and constraints and to identify possible strategic level data and information gaps.

The screening exercise will build upon the data already gathered for the Offshore Energy SEA, the Severn Tidal SEA, the Welsh Marine Energy Strategic Plan, the UK Marine Renewable Energy Resources Atlas and other studies.

### Renewable Energy: Public Consultation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish his response to the renewable energy strategy consultation. [279550]

**Mr. Kidney:** We published an initial response to the renewable energy strategy consultation on 17 February 2009. This can be viewed on:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_res/cons_res.aspx

The renewable energy strategy will be our formal response to the consultation and will be published this summer.

### Solar Power

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will provide funding for the manufacture of domestic energy generation products using photovoltaic technology. [281229]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 19 June 2009]:* A low carbon economy represents a huge economic opportunity and is at the heart of the Government's vision for economic recovery. Budget 2009 committed a further £1.4 billion in targeted support for the low carbon economy.

The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) is the Government's £131 million grant programme which is supporting the installation of microgeneration technologies including solar photovoltaic. The programme is helping to build the supply chain for these technologies and creating a sustainable market. In addition, solar photovoltaic also receives support through the Renewables Obligation (RO). Since 1 April 2009, all microgenerators (50 kW and under) can apply for the highest level of support under the reformed RO (2 ROCs/MWh).

We are committed to having Feed-In Tariffs in place in April 2010. This will provide longer term support for solar photovoltaic industry giving business the confidence to make investment decisions.

### Solar Power: East of England

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has allocated to promoting take up of solar panel usage in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [278845]

**Mr. Kidney:** Between 2001 and 2006 over £41 million was committed to solar PV through grant programmes and field trials. Solar thermal technology, along with other renewable technologies, received support through the £12.5 million Clear Skies programme.

Since 2006, solar PV and solar thermal installations have been supported under the £131 million Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP). Projects supported in Mid Bedfordshire constituency and the East of England region in each year since are as follows:

*LCBP householder stream*

| | East of England | | Mid Bedfordshire | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Grant offered | Paid amount | Grant offered | Paid amount |
| *2006-07* | | | | |
| Solar photovoltaic | 367,707.32 | 228,187.66 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Solar thermal hot water | 99,600.00 | 78,800.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| *2007-08* | | | | |
| Solar photovoltaic | 68,765.00 | 172,673.68 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Solar thermal hot water | 52,800.00 | 62,000.00 | 800.00 | 800.00 |
| *2008-09* | | | | |
| Solar photovoltaic | 183,794.80 | 138,134.80 | 9,420.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Solar thermal hot water | 102,400.00 | 96,800.00 | 3,200.00 | 2,800.00 |
| *2009-10* | | | | |
| Solar photovoltaic | 37,260.00 | 19,420.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Solar thermal hot water | 17,200.00 | 14,800.00 | 800.00 | 1,200.00 |

*Phase 1: Communities*[1]

| | East of England | | Mid Bedfordshire | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Grant offered | Paid amount | Grant offered | Paid amount |
| *2006-07* | | | | |
| Solar photovoltaic | 30,364.20 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Solar thermal hot water | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *2007-08* | | | | |
| Solar photovoltaic | 5,173.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Solar thermal hot water | 0.00 | 5,276.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *2008-09* | | | | |
| Solar photovoltaic | n/a | 0.00 | n/a | 0.00 |
| Solar thermal hot water | n/a | 0.00 | n/a | 0.00 |
| *2009-10* | | | | |
| Solar photovoltaic | n/a | 0.00 | n/a | 0.00 |
| Solar thermal hot water | n/a | 5,173.00 | n/a | 0.00 |

[1] Applications closed for the communities stream in April 2007

*Stream 2A (below £100,000)*

| | East of England | | Mid Bedfordshire | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Grant offered | Paid amount | Grant offered | Paid amount |
| *2007-08*[1] | | | | |
| Solar photovoltaic | 36,353.50 | n/a | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Solar thermal hot water | 43,549.90 | n/a | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *2008-09* | | | | |
| Solar photovoltaic | n/a | 25,000.00 | n/a | 0.00 |
| Solar thermal hot water | n/a | 9,589.20 | n/a | 0.00 |
| *2007-08*[2] | | | | |
| Solar photovoltaic | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Solar thermal hot water | 26,546.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

[1] Applications closed for Stream 2A in September 2007
[2] Applications closed for Stream 2B in September 2007

*Low Carbon Buildings Programme—Phase 2*

Projects supported in Mid Bedfordshire constituency and the East of England region in each year since are as follows:

*(a)* There have been no accepted solar applications in Mid Bedfordshire for the duration of the programme.

*(b)* The following applications were supported in the East of England area.

*East of England—value and number of project accepted per FY*

| | Solar PV | | Solar Thermal | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | Number of projects | £ | Number of projects |
| 2006-07 | 58,988 | 1 | 9,805 | 1 |
| 2007-08 | 443,206 | 23 | 15,502 | 7 |
| 2008-09 | 847,511 | 40 | 137,034 | 14 |
| 2009-10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Solar PV also receives support through the Renewables Obligation (RO). Since 1 April 2009, all microgenerators (50 kW and under) can apply for the highest level of support under the reformed RO (2 ROCs/MWh). We do not maintain data on the number of ROCs claimed per constituency or region.

## Vestas

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with the Vestas turbine company the future of its factories in Southampton and on the Isle of Wight. [278380]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department and my predecessor have held discussions with Vestas regarding their announcement to consult on the future of their UK manufacturing capacity. No sector is immune from the economic downturn, and we are taking urgent action to ensure manufacturers can invest with confidence to supply the onshore and offshore wind markets, including the announcement in the Budget of up to £4 billion of new capital from the European Investment Bank that could support UK renewable energy projects, which should provide confidence for the onshore wind supply chain, and an intention to consult on a time-limited uplift in the level of support for offshore wind through the Renewables Obligation.

I recognise that commercial decisions on the supply of turbines for renewable generation are a matter for the companies concerned. SEEDA, the local regional development agency, has established a task force to provide a package of co-ordinated support that provides the company and its employees with advice and guidance during the consultation period, including—if Vestas'

consultation does lead to redundancies—support on every opportunity for seeking alternative employment, training and re-skilling.

### Wind Power: South Downs

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost of the project to construct wind turbines in the South Downs National Park. [277792]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Department does not hold information on the cost of any proposed development in the South Downs National Park. This is a commercial matter for the developer concerned.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to answer Question 241930, on fuel poverty, tabled on 4 December 2008. [279437]

**Mr. Kidney** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* According to DEFRA's records the question was answered on 18 December 2008 but that answer never appeared in the *Official Report*. The question has now been answered and I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to question 241930. I apologise for the delay.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 25 June 2009*

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Retail Trade

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans his Department has to restrict the means by which business may promote alcohol consumption. [281267]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Government have introduced legislation to establish a new code of practice for alcohol retailers. This will ensure that all alcohol retailers sell alcohol responsibly, by banning irresponsible promotions which encourage excessive drinking and can lead to crime and disorder.

The legislation for the new code of practice in the Policing and Crime Bill is an enabling power, which will allow the Home Secretary to set out a small number of national mandatory licensing conditions which could apply to all alcohol retailers. It will also give licensing authorities more power to tackle local problems which occur in many town centres, allowing them to impose a more detailed set of conditions on two or more premises at the same time, in an area experiencing particularly high levels of alcohol-related nuisance and disorder.

Ministers have not yet taken any final decisions on the content of the mandatory code but some of the measures we are consulting on include:

banning offers like "all you can drink for £10";

outlawing pubs and bars offering promotions to certain groups, such as "women drink free" nights;

banning staff dispensing alcohol directly into customers' mouths;

requiring that consumers are able to make informed choices when they buy alcohol; and

requiring bars and pubs to offer smaller measures available for customers who want them.

We are holding a series of meetings with key stakeholders, including representatives of local government, enforcement agencies and the general public about the content of the code.

Details of the consultation can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-alcohol/

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* anti-social behaviour orders and *(b)* acceptable behaviour contracts have been issued in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each of the last five years. [282060]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The latest available data on antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) cover the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2006. Information on the numbers of ASBOs issued is not available below criminal justice system (CJS) area level. The available information is shown in the table.

The number of acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) is collected by the Home Office through a voluntary survey of crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs) use of antisocial behaviour tools and powers. The latest data published indicate that over 30,000 ABCs have been made between October 2003 and September 2007, with over 563 issued in the Essex during the same period.

Currently, data on the number of ABCs issued are not available below regional level.

*Table 1: Number of anti-social behaviour orders ISSUED at all courts in the Essex criminal justice system (CJS) area, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, January 2002 to December 2006*

| *CJS area* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 2 |
| 2003 | 23 |
| 2004 | 79 |
| 2005 | 88 |
| 2006 | 32 |

### Anti-Terrorism Control Orders

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend counter-terrorism legislation in light of the recent Law Lords ruling on control orders; and if he will make a statement. [281856]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government keep individual control orders and counter-terrorism legislation under review. We are considering the impact of this judgment and our options carefully. The Government will continue to take all steps we can to manage the threat posed by suspected terrorists.

### Community Policing

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing schemes in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point. [282064]

**Mr. Hanson:** It is for individual police forces and authorities to ensure the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing in their area. The Government will hold forces to account for progress through the single top-down target we have set them to improve public confidence that crime and anti-social behaviour issues are being tackled locally, and in the light of inspection work by Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC).

HMIC has inspected every force in England and Wales to assess their capabilities in delivering neighbourhood policing and developing citizen focus. HMIC's assessment in September 2008 was that all forces, including Essex police, had met this standard.

### Data Protection Act 1998

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether all refusals of access to personal data held by his Department for the purpose of safeguarding national security are subject to a certificate signed under section 28 of the Data Protection Act 1998; and if he will make a statement. [281500]

**Mr. Hanson:** A certificate is not necessary to claim the exemption under section 28 of the Act. Normally, a certificate will be issued when the use of the exemption has been challenged and the Home Secretary has satisfied himself of the need to certify the exemption.

### Fingerprints: Databases

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who have not been convicted of a crime have their fingerprint records retained on the National Fingerprint Database. [279618]

**Alan Johnson:** The National Fingerprint Database does not hold criminal conviction data; it stores biometric data and basic identity details which can be used to align identity with records on the Police National Computer (PNC). The PNC is an operational tool and not designed to produce the information requested. To obtain the information would incur disproportionate cost.

### Entry Clearances

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which countries the UK has a visa facilitation agreement. [277743]

**Mr. Woolas:** The EU has concluded visa facilitation agreements with a number of Western Balkans states, as well as Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. The UK does not participate in these EU visa facilitation agreements.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications from *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Pakistan were referred from entry clearance points in those countries to London for decision (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) since 27 October 2008. [280125]

**Alan Johnson:** We do not hold statistics on the number of visa applications from Afghanistan or Pakistan which have been referred for decisions to be made by colleagues in the UK in the past five years.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the colleges that withdrew of their own volition from the new UK Border Agency register process currently sponsor visas for foreign students. [278542]

**Mr. Woolas:** A total of four foreign students are currently sponsored by colleges who have withdrawn of their own volition from the UK Border Agency register. The students have leave to remain which was granted to them prior to the introduction of new procedures on 31 March 2009. If, when their current leave lapses, these students wish to seek further leave to remain to continue studying here, they will need to qualify under the points-based system.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

### Police Community Support Officers: Clothing

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers were assaulted while on duty in each of the last three years. [279111]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The information requested is contained in the following table. The increase in assaults over the last three years should be considered in the light of larger percentage increases in number of police community support officers in post over the same period.

*Number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) assaulted while on duty: Police forces in England and Wales 2005-06 to 2007-08[1]*

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total for all forces providing data | 230 | 141 | 416 |
| Number of forces providing data | 41 | 28 | 39 |
| *Like-for-like comparison* | | | |
| Total for all forces providing data in 2005-06 and 2007-08[2] | 208 | n/a | 396 |
| Number of forces providing data in 2005-06 and 2007-08[3] | 37 | n/a | 37 |
| Number of PCSOs in post in these forces at end of period[2] | 6,130 | n/a | 13,587 |

*Notes:*
[1] Figures are on a head-count basis. These data are provisional and are unaudited with police forces. Data for 2008-09 will be available later this year.
[2] This represents a 90 per cent. like-for-like increase in assaults between 2005-06 and 2007-08, but this should be set against the increases in numbers of PCSOs in post in these 37 forces of 122 per cent. for the same period.
[3] The 37 forces exclude Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Greater Manchester, South Wales, Thames Valley and Wiltshire. These excluded forces accounted for 14 per cent. of total PCSO officer strength on 31 March 2008.

### Police: Plymouth

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the budget for policing in Plymouth was in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; [282444]

(2) what percentage of the budget for policing in Plymouth was spent on policing in Plympton and Plymstock in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [282446]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government allocate funding to police authorities as a whole. The allocation of resources to Plymouth is a matter for the chief constable of Devon and Cornwall police and the police authority, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Devon and Cornwall's final budget was £256.8 million for 2007-08 and £268.1 million for 2008-09.

### Police: Procurement

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to promote the uptake of collaborative procurement strategies within police forces in England, as recommended in HM Treasury's May 2009 review, "Operational Efficiency Programme: collaborative procurement". [279712]

**Mr. Hanson:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 39W.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Gender Pay Gap

**John Penrose:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality on what criteria her most recent estimate of the gender pay gap in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector is based. [282094]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the response given earlier today.

### Breast Feeding

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will bring forward proposals to provide a legal right for women to breastfeed in public places. [280408]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The Equality Bill which is currently before Parliament makes it clear that it is unlawful discrimination to ask a mother to leave places such as cafes if she is breastfeeding her baby.

At present we have no plans to bring forward proposals to provide a legal right for women to breastfeed in public places.

### Females: Human Trafficking

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what her estimate is of the number of women trafficked into the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation in 2008. [282208]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** The latest estimate supplied by Home Office is that at any one time in 2003, there were up to 4,000 women had been trafficked into the UK.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre is undertaking an analysis of the outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2. This analysis, in conjunction with the work based within the regional intelligence units, will inform a more up to date assessment of the extent of trafficking in the UK, which is due by the end of the year.

### Rape: Victim Support Schemes

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 826W, on rape: victim support schemes, what use was made of the £200,000 of the £1.1 million special fund for rape crisis centres which was not paid out. [282259]

**Michael Jabez Foster:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 551-52W.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1405W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies have paid in interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282323]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Interest payments made by all our non-departmental public bodies under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 are not recorded centrally, and therefore can be identified only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Location

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on relocation costs for new members of staff in each of the last three years. [280776]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department has reviewed the payroll and finance system and no employee (new or existing) has received any allowance for resettlement or cost of excess fares following a move to this Department. All new members of staff are required to self-finance any resettlement costs incurred.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281070]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department has had no laptop computers lost or stolen over the last five years. Our only agency, Royal Parks, lost one laptop in 2004 which did not contain any personal information.

### Departmental Nurseries

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what crèche facilities his Department provides for its employees working in Whitehall. [282231]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not provide any crèche facilities for employees.

### Departmental Work Experience

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid graduate internships his Department has awarded in each of the last six months. [281513]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not directly co-ordinate or offer paid or unpaid graduate internships. These are co-ordinated through HM Treasury. The Department has not offered any paid or unpaid internships in the last six months.

### Rugby: Drugs

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will investigate allegations of illegal drug consumption by individuals associated with rugby football. [281777]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Investigations into allegations of illegal drug possession is a matter for the police, who must prioritise resources towards tackling crime, including drugs crime with a focus on those offences which cause the most harm.

Any prohibited substance found in a rugby union footballer's bodily specimen that is collected as part of the National Anti-Doping Organisation's testing programme will be fully investigated in line with the anti-doping rules of the sport. Any illegal drug consumption that is suspected and indeed detected as part of a sport's illicit drug programme (akin to employee drug testing) remains within the remit of the National Governing Body to action.

### Taking Part Survey

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the results of the Taking Part Survey for 2008-09 to be published. [282253]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Data from Taking Part for the full 12 months of the 2008-09 survey will be published on 13 August 2009.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012: Finance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympic cycling events at the VeloPark. [280509]

**Tessa Jowell:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic games including cycling events at the VeloPark.

The VeloPark is being constructed by the Olympic Delivery Authority, and in the latest London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games Quarterly Economic Report (May 2009), the current anticipated final cost (AFC) of the venue is reported at £94 million (net of external funding contributions and anticipated VAT savings totalling £11 million).

The direct costs associated with staging the events at the VeloPark come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse from London 2012 venues, including the VeloPark. However, these costs such as in security and transport systems have not yet been identified separately for individual events and will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many antisocial behaviour orders were applied for in Northern Ireland in each year since 2004. [280637]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office only collects data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders made. It does not record the detail of applications.

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many antisocial behaviour orders Carrickfergus borough council applied for in each year since 2004. [280644]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office only collects data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders made. It does not record the details of applications that have been adjourned, withdrawn or where a final decision has not been made by the court.

The hon. Gentleman may wish to write to the chief executive of the council for this information.

### Northern Ireland Compensation Agency: Manpower

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people work for the Compensation Agency for Northern Ireland. [282300]

**Paul Goggins:** As of 31 March 2009, the Compensation Agency had 74.4 FTE (full-time equivalent) permanent staff in post.

### Northern Ireland Forensic Science Agency: Manpower

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people work for Forensic Science Northern Ireland. [282308]

**Paul Goggins:** As of 23 June 2009, Forensic Science Northern Ireland has 203 permanent staff and 14 temporary staff in post.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Postal Votes

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many forms of ballot paper are used for postal voting in elections. [282086]

**Mr. Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that for each type of election the form of the ballot paper is prescribed in law. The form of the documents sent to postal voters, including the postal voting statement, voting instructions, ballot paper envelope and return envelope, is also prescribed in law and is the same for all elections.

The Commission has issued guidance on the production of ballot papers and postal voting materials, but it is the responsibility of each returning officer to ensure that the documents sent to postal voters comply with the law. The Commission understands that returning officers adopt a variety of approaches to the stationery and packaging for postal ballot packs.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Chondrocalcinosis

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent research has been commissioned by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies on whether chondrocalcinosis can result from industrial accidents. [282187]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Neither the Department nor its agencies have commissioned any research into chondrocalcinosis in the context of industrial accidents.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport used for administrative operations by her Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281038]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The estimate of the carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport for administrative operations by my Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff are:

*Department for Work and Pensions—carbon dioxide emissions from road-based transport*

| | *(a) 2006-07* | *(b) 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| (i) Total $CO_2$ emissions (tonnes) | 22,278.96 | 17,662.93 |
| Full-time equivalent staff | 111,734 | 104,830 |
| (ii) $CO_2$ emissions per full-time equivalent member of staff (tonnes) | 0.199 | 0.169 |

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in her Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281039]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The estimate of the carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff by the Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff are:

*Department for Work and Pensions—carbon dioxide emissions from air travel*

| | *(a) 2006-07* | *(b) 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| (i) total $CO_2$ emissions (tonnes) | 4,633.42 | 2,789.21 |
| Full-time equivalent staff | 111,734 | 104,830 |
| (ii) $CO_2$ emissions per full-time equivalent member of staff (tonnes) | 0.04 | 0.03 |

### Disability Living Allowance

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many UK citizens resident in other EU countries who are entitled to receive disability living allowance payments have claims outstanding; and what estimate she has made of the time which will be taken to *(a)* assess and *(b)* make payment in respect of such claims. [281660]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Since the judgment by the European Court of Justice on 18 October 2007, the Department has made payments to around 1,400 disability living allowance, attendance allowance and carer's allowance customers who now reside in other European economic area (EEA) states or Switzerland.

The Department started to process claims to disability living allowance from other EEA states and Switzerland following a written ministerial statement on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 22WS, and are working to clear all outstanding claims—around 1,000—as quickly as possible. We do not know how many of these will be entitled to receive disability living allowance payments until we have processed their claims.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service aims to process claims for Disability Living Allowance within an average of 38 working days for customers who reside in Great Britain. This includes assessing and making payments in respect of these claims. Claims from people residing in the EEA or Switzerland can take longer to process for a number of reasons, such as post taking longer in transit between the Department and the customer and, for example, the processes involved to obtain supporting medical evidence from abroad, where this is required.

### Industrial Health and Safety

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department issues to the relevant authorities on the extent of areas in which persons are liable to be affected by a major accident occurring at *(a)* large-scale petrol storage depots and *(b)* onshore non-nuclear major hazard installations. [280621]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Under Regulation 10 of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (as amended) ('COMAH') the duty to supply local authority emergency planners with the information necessary for them to prepare an off-site emergency plan, including the extent of areas in which persons are liable to be affected by a major accident, rests with the site operator.

To assist operators and others in complying with their duties under COMAH the competent authority has published the following guidance:

L111—"A guide to the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999 (as amended)";

HSG 191 "Emergency planning for major accidents"; and,

"COMAH—What you should know"—a public information leaflet available on the HSE website.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what average length of time jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point received JSA in each of the last five years. [281848]

**Angela E. Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what average length of time jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point received JSA in each of the last five years. (281848)

The number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been defined as the time between the start of an individual's claim and that claim ending. Table 1 shows the median length of completed claims during the May count period of the last five years.

*Table 1. Median length of completed claims (off-flows) of Jobseeker's Allowance for claimants resident in Essex and Castle Point parliamentary constituency*

| May | Essex | Castle Point |
|---|---|---|
| | Months | |
| 2005 | 10.0 | 9.4 |
| 2006 | 11.5 | 10.1 |
| 2007 | 11.6 | 12.2 |
| 2008 | 10.0 | 8.4 |
| 2009 | 11.0 | 10.6 |

*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

## Pension Service: Consultants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pensions Service spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [280344]

**Angela Eagle:** The Pension Service spend on consultants in the last four years is shown in the table:

| Financial year | Expenditure spent on consultants by the Pension Service (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 23.451 |
| 2006-07 | 26.082 |
| 2007-08 | 20.583 |
| 2008-09 | 8.057 |

*Source:*
The Departmental Resource Management system Investment Management Report Period 2

The Pension Service did not account for the costs of consultancy services separate from other related costs in 2004-05. Figures could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Petrol: Storage

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what developments within development proximity zones surrounding *(a)* large-scale petrol storage depots and *(b)* onshore non-nuclear major hazard installations do not comply with Health and Safety Executive guidance on development within such zones; and if she will make a statement. [280695]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* Development proximity zones (DPZs) around large-scale petrol storage depots were introduced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in July 2008. Since then HSE has advised against the granting of planning permission on safety grounds for five planning applications which involved developments within a DPZ. In one of these cases the planning authority granted planning permission.

DPZs only apply to large-scale petrol storage depots. HSE does not record information on the number of developments within the consultation distances around other onshore non-nuclear major hazard installations where planning authorities have granted planning permission following HSE's advice against development.

## Public Information Zones

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the radius is of public information zones surrounding *(a)* large-scale petrol storage depots and *(b)* onshore non-nuclear major hazard installations; and if she will make a statement. [280692]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* Public information zones (PIZs) around large-scale petrol storage depots and other COMAH 'top-tier' onshore non-nuclear major hazard installations are rarely circular. They reflect the effect of site specific conditions, for example, the quantities and locations of hazardous substances stored on the site, and the influence of local weather conditions. PIZs range from a few hundred metres for sites storing flammable substances to a few kilometres for sites storing toxic substances.

The PIZ around a single, large scale petrol storage tank has a radius of 400 m from the edge of the tank's circular bund. However, most large-scale petroleum storage sites have more than one storage tank, and in some cases the PIZ will extend beyond 400 m due to the presence of the other hazardous substances.

To provide details of the PIZs for all 'top tier' COMAH sites, including large-scale petrol storage depots, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Social Security Benefits: Fraud

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what use her Department makes of voice risk analysis products; and what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of their use in her Department's work; [277050]

(2) which companies supply voice risk analysis products to her Department. [277051]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department is currently funding trials of voice risk analysis technology in 24 local authorities. These trials are due to finish in December 2009 and an evaluation report will be produced after that date.

In 2007-08 the Department conducted small scale trials of voice risk analysis technology in Jobcentre Plus and local authorities. The Department's assessment of these trials has been made available. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 19-20WS.

Capita Group, in conjunction with Digilog UK, assisted in the implementation of Voice Risk Analysis technology in small scale trials in local authorities and Jobcentre Plus in 2007-08. This included supplying the system and advising on its use and training.

## Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to which benefits recipients who move to another country in the European Economic Area continue to be entitled when they are no longer resident in the UK; and what rules apply to such recipients. [281742]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* In general a person moving to reside in another EEA country can take the following benefits with them if they have satisfied the conditions of entitlement:

State retirement pension
Contributory employment and support allowance
Contributory jobseeker's allowance (JSA)
Bereavement benefits
Industrial injuries benefits
Winter fuel payments

Cash sickness benefits like statutory sick pay, disability living allowance (care component) (DLA), attendance allowance (AA) and carer's allowance (CA)

Maternity benefits which are based on a period of employment and a level of earnings

The right to retain the benefit is tied to conditions specific to each benefit. For example, as far as JSA is concerned, to qualify in the first place a person would have to have done some work in the UK. It can then be retained for up to three months, provided that person has already qualified for it in the UK and is going to the other member state to look for work and fulfils that country's job seeking conditions.

### Unemployed: Training

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of the marginal cost of providing the 75,000 additional training places under the six month offer to the unemployed; [271709]

(2) how long on average a training course offered as part of the six month offer to the unemployed will last; [271710]

(3) what qualifications can be gained as a result of the training places to be provided as part of the six month offer to the unemployed; [271711]

(4) who she expects to deliver the 75,000 new training places to be provided as part of the six month offer to the unemployed. [271712]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to ensuring that people facing redundancy and long term unemployment are able to access the help they need to improve skills and find employment. Since April 2009, the government has made available a new package of help for the unemployed including a £100m package of training for 70,000 people under notice of redundancy, newly redundant, or close to the labour market. This is part of a wider package of advice and guidance available to jobseekers.

The Government are also investing £83 million over the next two years to support 75,000 people who reach six month JSA claim point to up-skill or re-skill in an area linked to the needs of the local labour market in order to help them get a job. Provision will be tailored to meet the individual's needs and we expect learners typically to follow Skills for Life, Level 2 or Level 3 vocational training. Training will be linked to the needs of the employers in the local job market. Learners can progress onto qualifications from this provision through the Adult Learner Responsive budget or through Train to Gain if they are in employment.

In the period funded through this programme, we expect learners to achieve a significant step on the path to the qualification of their choice. However, we recognise that it may take longer for them to complete the full qualification and additional support will be available to enable them to do that through Train to Gain or Adult Learner Responsive funding. At this time it is not possible to confirm the average length of training overall which will depend on the nature of that training, and whether it is full or part time.

Contracts have initially been allocated to colleges, and will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that there is a good coverage and learners' needs are being met. A list of providers with whom initial allocations have been agreed has been placed in the House Libraries. However, allocations may change in response to demand and provision may be extended to other providers in the future in certain circumstances.

A further package of help for young unemployed people was announced in the Budget and includes £122 million for training.

## TREASURY

### Crown Estate Commissioners

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, (1) if he will list the names and locations of structures sited on Crown Estate land but not owned by the Crown Estate to which repair work has been carried out by the Crown Estate; [281913]

(2) what duty the Crown Estate has to maintain and repair structures located on land owned by the Crown Estate where these contribute towards coastal protection; [281915]

(3) if he will list the names and locations of *(a)* piers and *(b)* harbours for which the Crown Estate has a duty of care. [281916]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Crown Estate land comprises extensive urban, rural, foreshore and seabed interests. It does not keep an ownership record of all the structures, including piers and harbours, on its land.

The Crown Estate does not erect structures on the foreshore and seabed on its land. It permits third parties to do so by granting leases. Such leases normally oblige tenants to repair structures on the land they lease.

The Crown Estate has no duty to maintain and repair structures on its land for coast protection purposes. Nor has it any general duty of care as landowner for piers or harbours on its land, whether leased or not. In common with all landowners, the Crown Estate has a statutory duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable injury to persons, and has to comply with any statutory notices.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent by the Crown Estate on repairs to historic structures within its care or ownership in each of the last five years. [281914]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Crown Estate's portfolio includes over 1,000 listed buildings and structures, and many historic structures which may not be listed. Total figures for repairs to historic structures over the last five years are not readily available, and to aggregate all individual repair bills would involve disproportionate time and cost.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by the Crown Estate on *(a)* piers and *(b)* harbours (i) owned by the Crown Estate and (ii) located on Crown Estate land in each of the last five years. [281917]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** In relation to piers, the Crown Estate has spent £17,649.98 in connection with works at the Generator Pier, Newburgh in Fife dating between May 2007 and May 2009.

As far as harbours are concerned, the Crown Estate has spent £2,291,000 in the last five years as follows:

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | £000 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| River Hamble, investment in and maintenance of mooring piles and pontoons | 224.5 | 321.9 | 188.8 | 30.4 | 91.8 |
| Tobermory, investment in pontoons | — | — | — | 240.0 | — |
| Tarbert, investment in pontoons | — | — | — | — | 645.2 |
| Wick, investment in pontoons | — | — | — | — | [1]250.0 |
| Crown Estate Marine Stewardship Fund, investment in variety of minor structural projects throughout the UK but mainly in Scotland | 34.0 | 23.0 | 86.0 | 116.3 | 40.0 |

[1] Committed but not yet paid.

### Departmental Nurseries

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what crèche facilities his Department provides for its employees working in Whitehall. [282230]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Treasury does not provide any crèche facilities.

The Department supports its staff through the provision of child care vouchers for those eligible. These can be used to fund attendance at crèches at the most convenient locations for staff.

The Department is a member of the Westminster Holiday Playscheme, which operates during school holidays and is open to children aged 4 years and 9 months up to 12 years of age. The Treasury provides two rooms for this play scheme, which can accommodate up to 18 children.

### EU: Legislation

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available. [281859]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** No such estimate has been made. Figures for the proportion of statutory obligations introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation on matters for which the Treasury are responsible are not available.

### Income Tax

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimated additional revenue would be raised in 2010-11 by increasing the higher rate of income tax to 50 per cent. for one year for those with incomes in excess of £60,000 per annum from April 2010. [281528]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* The estimated yield from lowering to £60,000 the threshold at which income will be taxed at the additional and dividend additional rates of 50 per cent. and 42.5 per cent. respectively is likely to involve significant behavioural effects. The estimated yield incorporating these behavioural effects can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Members: Correspondence

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 25 February 2009 on behalf of Mr. Bracey of Coalpit Heath, acknowledged by his Department with the reference: 1/67931/2009. [273378]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

### Monetary Policy Committee

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether taking up full-time residence in the UK is a condition of the appointment of Adam Posen to the Monetary Policy Committee. [281897]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** As part of the process for appointing members to the Monetary Policy Committee announced by the Chancellor in June 2008, full time residence in the UK is required. This is the basis upon which interviews are held and the basis upon which Dr. Adam Posen will be taking up his position in September 2009.

### Revenue and Customs: Maladministration

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the error rate in activity dealing with EU claims relating to business and taxation was at HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* Ty-Glas, *(b)* Bootle and *(c)* Nottingham office in the latest period for which figures are available. [277104]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The information requested is not held and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Discrepancies in claims relating to business and taxation can emanate from a wide range of sources.

### Revenue and Customs: Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 444W, on HM Revenue and Customs: manpower, how many grades of officer there are in HM Revenue and Customs. [282153]

**Mr. Timms:** In HM Revenue and Customs there are nine main grades of officer:

1. Administration assistant
2. Assistant officer
3. Officer
4. Higher officer
5. Senior officer

6. Fast stream/trainee
7 Grade 7
8. Grade 6
9. Senior civil servant (SCS).

The SCS grade can be broken down further:
(a) SCS 1
(b) SCS 1A
(c) SCS 2
(d) SCS 3.

### Swine Flu

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an estimate of the effects of swine influenza on inflation in the UK. [280230]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Treasury's latest assessment of the economy, including inflation, was published in Budget 2009 (HC 407). Estimates of the effects of swine influenza on inflation in the UK are inherently uncertain and would depend crucially on the necessary assumptions employed. However, HM Treasury continues to monitor all relevant factors from a range of sources to inform its assessment of the UK Economy. The effects on inflation from economic and other developments are also closely monitored by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England. The MPC has full operational independence from the Government in deciding how to meet the Government's inflation target of 2 per cent. on a Consumer Price Index basis.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the UK economy of the outbreak of swine flu. [282190]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Treasury's latest assessment of the economy was published in Budget 2009 (HC 407). Estimates of the potential cost to the UK economy of an outbreak of swine flu are inherently uncertain and would depend crucially on the necessary assumptions employed. HM Treasury continues to monitor all relevant factors from a range of sources to inform its assessment of the UK economy.

### Taxation: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 444-45W, on taxation: alcoholic drinks, whether he has made an estimate of the revenue that could result from the taxation of expenditure on advertising by businesses producing alcoholic drinks. [282211]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** No estimate has been made of the revenue which could be raised if alcohol advertising were to be subject to taxation.

### Taxation: Crown Dependencies

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress he has made in negotiations with Crown Dependencies on the establishment of tax information exchange agreements; and if he will make a statement. [281779]

**Mr. Timms:** The UK has concluded tax information exchange agreements with the Crown Dependencies. The agreement with the Isle of Man was signed on 29 September 2008, with Guernsey on 20 January 2009 and with Jersey on 10 March 2009.

### Valuation Office: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assistance the Office for Government Commerce has provided to the Valuation Office Agency on Gateway reviews; and what the *(a)* title of each project is and *(b)* purpose for which assistance has been provided is. [252431]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Office of Government Commerce has arranged several OGC Gateway™ reviews for the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) on a number of their projects.

| *Project name* | *Department/ associated body* | *Start of Gateway* | *Gate* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Data Collection | HMRC/VOA | 24 September 2003 | 1 |
| Manual Valuations | HMRC/VOA | 6 April 2004 | 1 |
| Manual Valuations | HMRC/VOA | 17 October 2005 | 4 |
| CTR 2007—IT Project | HMRC/VOA | 26 April 2005 | 1 |
| CTR 2007—Enquiries and Appeals | HMRC/VOA | 9 May 2005 | 2 |

In January 2008 HMRC received delegated authority from the OGC to arrange and carry out Gateway reviews on projects and programmes designated as 'medium risk' within HMRC and its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies. HMRC carried out a Gateway 0 Review of the VOA's World Class Programme, in October 2008.

The OGC Gateway Process is designed to provide independent assurance to senior responsible owners (SROs) across central civil Government on the health of their programmes and projects. The selection of the Gateway review team is undertaken independently of VOA by the HMRC Gateway team. The review team leader would be from another Government Department and the review team members would be from within HMRC and independent of the VOA project.

The purpose of the individual Gateway reviews detailed above is as follows:

*Gate 0: Strategic assessment*

This is a programme-only review that investigates the direction and planned outcomes of the programme, together with the progress of its constituent projects. It is repeated over the life of the programme at key decision points.

*Gate 1: Business justification*

This first project review comes after the strategic business case has been prepared. It focuses on the project's business justification prior to the key decision on approval for development proposal.

*Gate 2: Delivery strategy*

This review investigates the outline business case and the delivery strategy before any formal approaches are made to prospective suppliers or delivery partners. The review may be repeated in long or complex procurement situations.

*Gate 4: Readiness for service*

This review focuses on the readiness of the organisation to go live with the necessary business changes, and the arrangements for management of the operational services.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel are deployed on operations; and what the location is of each such deployment. [279964]

**Bill Rammell:** The endorsed force levels for UK military operations are provided in the following table by location.

| *Location* | *Endorsed number[1] (at 31 May 2009)* |
|---|---|
| Afghanistan | [2]8,300 |
| Iraq | [3]— |
| At sea | [4]1,050 |
| Falklands/South Atlantic | 1,500 |
| Qatar | 250 |
| Cyprus | 300 |
| Kuwait | [5]1,500 |
| Kosovo | <50 |
| Bahrain | [6]150 |
| Oman | 150 |
| Bosnia | <50 |
| Other[6] | 100 |

[1] Rounded to 50

[2] On 29 April 2009, my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, announced on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 869, a temporary increase in troop numbers to 9,000 for Operation Herrick to bolster security during the Afghanistan election period.

[3] On 15 June, the Prime Minister set out for Parliament on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 21, the current number of UK military personnel in Iraq (around 500) as we draw down our forces after the conclusion of the combat mission and the number we expect to remain in Iraq after the completion of the drawdown by the end of July (up to 100).

[4] Numbers at sea in support of Operations TELIC and CALASH.

[5] Temporary increases in endorsed posts during the period of the Operation TELIC drawdown, these numbers fluctuate daily but will not exceed these levels.

[6] Small scale deployments in support of EU and UN missions, headquarters liaison officers and capacity building activities.

The precise number of personnel in each theatre at any one time fluctuates significantly on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including: mid-tour rest and recuperation; temporary absence for training; evacuation for medical reasons; the roulement of forces; visits; and a range of other factors.

### Armed Forces: Pay

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel have had salary payments reduced or stopped in order to offset overpayments made as a result of errors in the Joint Personnel Administration system since April 2006; [281712]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to eliminate errors in the Joint Personnel Administration system; [281713]

(3) how many service personnel have been overpaid as a result of errors in the Joint Personnel Administration system since 7 April 2006. [281714]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The number of service personnel who have had salary payments reduced or stopped in order to offset overpayments made as a result of errors in the Joint Personnel Administration system since April 2006 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since roll-out in 2006, significant steps have been taken to eliminate errors in the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) (ORACLE) system. To rectify problems identified, 166 fixes to the system have been undertaken, and a further 344 other system changes have been made.

For the number of personnel overpaid during the period April 2006 to September 2006 inclusive, I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer given by the previous Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans (Derek Twigg) on 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1470W, to the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Mr. Williams). Data for October 2006 to December 2006 inclusive are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For the number of personnel overpaid during the calendar year 2007, I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the reply given by my noble Friend, the Minister for International Defence and Security, Baroness Taylor of Bolton, to the noble Lord, Lord Selkirk of Douglas in another place on 21 January 2008 and 5 February 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA2 and WA163.

Although similarly detailed information about the number of personnel overpaid from January 2008 to date is not held as JPA is now operating a steady state, an audit undertaken during 2008 identified some 5,800 personnel who may have received duplicate, or overlapping payments of Operational Allowance. An enhancement to the JPA (ORACLE) system to prevent a reoccurrence was introduced in July 2008.

Delays or errors in individual payments can also occur as the result of late or incorrect inputs by individuals or unit human resources staff. This information is not held centrally and could be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Sick Leave

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of armed forces personnel in each service were *(a)* unable to deploy and *(b)* only able to undertake limited deployment for medical reasons in each year since 2003. [275017]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The MOD collates, on a quarterly basis, management information on the number of service personnel "fit for task", which provides a measure of the medical fitness of all trained armed forces personnel. These figures are broken down into three categories: medically fully fit, medically not fully fit, and medically unfit. It should be noted that the majority of those personnel who fall under the category of medically not fully fit remain fit enough to work in some capacity and therefore continue to make a contribution to operational effectiveness, often within theatres of operation.

Prior to 1 April 2006, information was collected by the single services for internal management purposes, but was not required to be reported centrally in a

standardised format. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For information on the period covering the first quarter of 2006-07 through to the second quarter of 2008-09, I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 20 and 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1262W and 1664W. Medically fit for task figures for the third and fourth quarters of 2008-09 can be found in the following table. Personnel numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and percentages, rounded to one decimal point.

| | | *Naval Service* | | *Army*[1] | | *RAF* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Number* | *Percentage of trained strength* | *Number* | *Percentage of trained strength* | *Number* | *Percentage of trained strength* |
| 2008-09 Q3 | Fully fit for task | 30,390 | 87.4 | — | — | 34,630 | 88.1 |
| | Not fully fit for task | 4,320 | 12.4 | — | — | 4,500 | 11.5 |
| | Unfit for task | 70 | 0.2 | — | — | 160 | 0.4 |
| 2008-09 Q4 | Fully fit for task | 30,340 | 87.2 | — | — | 34,400 | 88.1 |
| | Not fully fit for task | 4,370 | 12.6 | — | — | 4,510 | 11.5 |
| | Unfit for task | 70 | 0.2 | — | — | 170 | 0.4 |

[1] Since 2007 the Army has collated figures for its deployable elements only not its total trained strength.

Since 1 April 2007 the Army has collated quarterly figures for its deployable elements only, rather than for its total trained strength. For this reason the figures are not comparable to those provided by the Navy and RAF in the same period. The Army's deployability returns provide a snapshot, on a specific day, of the deployability of Army personnel broken down into the following categories: fully deployable; limited deployability (LD); and personnel unable to deploy (PUD). Many of those personnel classed as LD can and will deploy to operational theatres, likewise PUDs will be able to undertake non-deployed duties.

The following table provides the figures as at 1 December 2008 and 1 April 2009; personnel numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and percentages rounded to one decimal point.

| | *Number* | *Percentage of deployable strength* |
|---|---|---|
| *1 December 2008* | | |
| Fully deployable | 57,700 | 78.8 |
| LD for medical reason | 7,910 | 10.8 |
| PUD for reasons | 3,900 | 5.3 |
| *1 April 2009* | | |
| Fully deployable | 57,770 | 78.4 |
| LD for medical reason | 8,190 | 11.1 |
| PUD for reasons | 3,860 | 5.2 |

For the last quarter, the reporting date has been altered to 1 April, bringing it in line with the financial year and other reporting.

## Defence: Procurement

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of the procurement of *(a)* aircraft carriers, *(b)* Joint Strike Fighter, *(c)* the Trident replacement programme, *(d)* Type 45 destroyers, *(e)* the Future Rapid Effects System, *(f)* Astute Class submarines and *(g)* Typhoons in the next 12 months. [280829]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The current estimated expenditure on the procurement of the programmes listed for the next 12 months up to the end of financial year 2009-10 is provided in the following table:

*£ million*

| *Programme* | *Direct Resource DEL and Capital DEL* | *Indirect Resource DEL* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aircraft Carriers | 419 | 29 | 448 |
| Joint Strike Fighter | 142 | 50 | 192 |
| Trident Replacement Programme | 390 | 1 | 391 |
| Type 45 Destroyers | 443 | 114 | 557 |
| Future Rapid Effect System | 45 | 0 | 45 |
| Astute Class Submarine | 561 | 80 | 641 |
| Typhoons | 903 | 92 | 995 |

*Note:* Indirect Resource DEL includes a notional Cost of Capital Charge and Depreciation.

The total estimated expenditure includes equipment procurement costs only and excludes any related equipment support or overhead expenditure.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on defence procurement in each of the armed services in the latest year for which figures are available; and how much of that expenditure was incurred in Scotland in each service. [281651]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Defence budget is spent as efficiently as possible to deliver value for money in producing required military capability, but is not allocated on a regional basis or by individual service. For example, military equipment is provided for the armed forces by the Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) organisation, which receives the top level requirements under the guidance of the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Capability). These are determined on a capability basis.

Estimates for direct MOD expenditure on equipment and non-equipment, and civilian and service personnel in Scotland are provided in the following table. Expenditure has been expressed as a percentage of the MOD's total worldwide actual cash expenditure. It is not possible to give a final figure for expenditure for Scotland as our

contractors may place subcontracts with organisations outside Scotland. Moreover, companies in Scotland may receive defence subcontracts from firms elsewhere in the UK.

*Scotland 2006-07*

| | *£ million at current prices (VAT exclusive)* |
|---|---|
| Total | 1,620 |
| *Of which:* | |
| Service personnel costs | 590 |
| Civilian personnel cost | 190 |
| Equipment expenditure | 520 |
| Non-equipment expenditure | 320 |
| Total as percentage of net cash requirement | 5.2 |
| Total as percentage of near cash | 5.3 |

*Note:*
Figures rounded to nearest £10 million

The MOD presents estimates of annual procurement of goods and service in the UK broken out by industry sector and estimates of aggregate MOD equipment expenditure annually in "The UK Defence Statistics", which can be found at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/UKDS2008/ukds.html

The most recent data cover 2002-03 to 2006-07 and the data for 2008-09 will be published on 27 September 2009. Given that there is no regional consideration to the defence budget, we will no longer produce a regional breakdown of direct defence employment and associated expenditure after then.

There is a strong manufacturing base in Scotland as a result of sustained investment by the UK Government. The Scottish Affairs Select Committee report into Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland, published in June 2008, said that "the defence industry is vital to Scotland". Defence and aerospace industries generate nearly £2.31 billion in sales and together with the MOD support almost 50,000 jobs and a record number of apprentices.

### EC Law

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of statutory obligations provided for by legislation on matters for which his Department is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available. [281867]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Department has not had to introduce new legislative instruments as a result of obligations under EU Legislation.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Cameroon: Prisoners

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request a report from the Cameroon authorities on the *(a)* health of and *(b)* availability of medical assistance, *(c)* physical conditions at the place of detention and *(d)* process for appeal against their sentence of the imprisoned chairman and vice chairman of the Southern Cameroons National Council. [282179]

**Chris Bryant:** The chairman of the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC), Chief Ayamba Ette Otun, together with the vice chairman Nfor Ngala Nfor, and activist Enow John Enow were released on bail on 3 June 2009 and remain at liberty. The process by which they may appeal against their sentence is a matter of Cameroon law and for their legal representatives to advise them.

### Commonwealth

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department's White Paper on the Commonwealth is expected to be published; and if he will make a statement. [281978]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no current plans to publish a White Paper on the Commonwealth.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other contribution his Department will make to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009. [281979]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government of Trinidad and Tobago will meet overall costs of hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which takes place in Port of Spain in November 2009.

We have shared experience of running international summits with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and remain in regular contact with the National Secretariat of Trinidad and Tobago which is responsible for co-coordinating CHOGM.

### Departmental Nurseries

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what crèche facilities his Department provides for its employees working in Whitehall. [282229]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) operates a nursery in King Charles Street, Whitehall for up to 42 children from 8-6 pm Monday to Friday. Places are open to children of staff, whether fathers or mothers and whether full-time or part-time employees.

The nursery is certified by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED) as an approved day care facility for children between six months and five years of age. The nursery is managed by Bright Horizons Family Solutions, a company specialising in the running of workplace nurseries. The FCO nursery received a top 'outstanding' mark in a recent OFSTED inspection (24 April 2009).

The FCO also runs a nursery for staff working at its second site, Hanslope Park, near Milton Keynes.

### European Commission

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which international bodies the European Commission has representational rights greater than those of the UK. [277085]

**Chris Bryant:** In order to answer this question we would require an assessment of the division of competence between the Community and the member states in respect of all international agreements to which the Community and the member states are parties. This would involve a disproportionate cost.

### Georgia: International Assistance

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to ensure the continuation of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's mission to Georgia. [282163]

**Chris Bryant:** We lobbied Russia several times before the first suspension of negotiations over the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) mission in Georgia in December 2008. In response to the Greek Chairmanship's proposal to revive negotiations, the UK accepted in principle a compromise text that met many of Russia's key concerns. Despite the efforts of the Greek chairmanship, Russia decided to block the renewal of the mandate. Russia's counter-proposals were unacceptable to the other participating states in the OSCE.

The UK has begun discussions with our partners at the OSCE to ensure a continued OSCE presence in Georgia and the separatist regions, building on the work previously done by the monitoring mission. We remain keen for the OSCE's expertise in human rights and democratisation to be used towards peace and stability in Georgia. Russia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on 18 June 2009 that it did not want to see the OSCE leave the region definitively. We will urge Russia to stick to this assertion and participate constructively in talks.

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had in the Council of Ministers of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on the continuation of the OSCE mission in Georgia after 30 June 2009; and if he will make a statement. [281963]

**Chris Bryant:** Despite the admirable efforts of the Greek chairmanship to reach a compromise, we deeply regret Russia's decision to block the renewal of the mandate for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Georgia, which is now due to close on 30 June 2009.

Russia refused to agree to terms which were acceptable to all 55 of the other OSCE participating states, and insisted that OSCE monitors could not have full freedom of movement. This development, together with Russia's decision on 16 June 2009 to veto a resolution to extend the mandate of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia, undermines our continuing efforts to find a peaceful political resolution to the conflict in Georgia and to support the humanitarian needs of those affected by conflict.

We, together with our OSCE partners, will look for alternative ways for the OSCE to engage in Georgia and the separatist regions which continue to respect Georgian sovereignty and territorial integrity. We urge Russia to respond constructively.

### Indonesia

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Indonesian government on reported attacks on civilians in the Puncak Jaya region of West Papua; and if he will make a statement. [281990]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My hon. Friend, the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) the then Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised continuing UK concern at the human rights situation in Papua with Indonesian Foreign Minister Wirajuda when they met in Jakarta on 10 February 2009, and again at the Asia Europe Meeting in Hanoi on 25 May 2009. The UK continues to advocate meaningful devolution, appropriate security measures and greater transparency in Papua.

The Indonesian Government has made progress on human rights over the last decade. During the recent elections, we were aware of reports of tensions in Papua with regard to the actions of the security forces. Officials from our embassy in Jakarta last visited Papua on 17, 18 and 19 June 2009. They held meetings with officials, academics and non-governmental organisations in the region. Although recognising that problems remain, they report a general consensus that there has been a more sensitive and tempered response to some incidents of unrest, including in the Puncak Jaya area, by the law enforcement agencies.

### Iran: Internet

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations at EU level for a prohibition on the supply to Iran of technology to inspect, monitor and filter internet content; and if he will make a statement. [282196]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are deeply concerned by the restrictions that the Iranian authorities have placed on communications networks in Iran and have made clear that we support the right of the Iranian people to communicate and express their views freely. We and our EU partners have set this out in recent statements. We will continue to monitor the situation.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the preconditions necessary for the establishment of a lasting two-state solution with regard to Israel and Palestine. [281492]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK welcomes the Israeli Prime Minister's support for a two-state solution. His speech on 14 June 2009 was a positive step towards making further progress on the peace process. However, more is needed from Israel on the issue of settlements: a complete freeze in settlement construction, in line with Israel's Roadmap commitments. We also emphasis that the Palestinians should continue to be prepared to engage in negotiations with Israel towards achieving a two-state solution.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the types of weapon used by Israeli forces in Gaza during Operation Cast Lead. [281832]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have seen unconfirmed reports from journalists, non-governmental organisations and other international observers about weapons and types of ammunition used by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) during Operation Cast Lead.

Of specific concern was the UN Board of Inquiry's findings on the use of white phosphorus. The Israeli authorities carried out an investigation and concluded that the IDF's use of white phosphorus did not breach its obligations under international law. Nevertheless, more generally, IDF investigations have stated that there were a very small number of incidents in which intelligence or operational errors took place during the fighting.

It is important that Israel continue to ensure that credible allegations are fully investigated. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this in his statement at the UN Security Council debate on 11 May 2009.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under what international security conditions the Government would participate in the multilateral nuclear disarmament process. [281899]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have set out the UK's vision for a world free from nuclear weapons, and the Government are at the forefront of efforts to create the conditions to bring this about. The Foreign Secretary set out these conditions in detail in the paper "Lifting the Nuclear Shadow" published in February 2009. As soon as it becomes useful for our arsenal to be included in a broader negotiation, we stand ready to participate and act.

### Nuclear Weapons: Arms Control

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his Department's evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee's inquiry into Global Security: Non Proliferation, HC 222, EV 118, under what circumstances the UK will include Trident warheads in a negotiation to reduce warhead numbers; and if he will make a statement. [282049]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government are at the forefront of international efforts to create the conditions for a world free from nuclear weapons. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said on 17 March 2009 that as soon as it becomes useful for our minimum deterrent, currently represented by the Trident system, to be included in a broader disarmament negotiation, we stand ready to participate and act. However, to reach that point would require a much more secure and predictable global political and security environment. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary set out in detail the conditions needed for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the steps that could be taken towards achieving them in the paper "Lifting the Nuclear Shadow" published in February 2009.

### Pakistan: Politics and Government

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the security situation in *(a)* the province of Sindh and *(b)* Karachi following violence in early June; and if he will make a statement. [281932]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Ethnic tension and political rivalry leading to violence is not uncommon in Karachi. However, increased violence in Karachi and Sindh over the last six weeks is a cause for concern, particularly given the apparent targeting of political activists. We understand 17 people affiliated to local political parties have been arrested. We continue to closely monitor the situation and urge all parties to refrain from violence.

### Sri Lanka

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions has he had with the Sri Lankan government on the return of all internally-displaced people from the former conflict zones in the north of the country to their homes by the end of 2009; and if he will make a statement. [281977]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this issue with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Bogollagama when they met on 5 June 2009. The Foreign Minister reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to resettle the majority of internally displaced persons before the end of the year. We will continue to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to make progress on this commitment and we stand ready to offer practical assistance through the Department for International Development's humanitarian funding programme.

### Sudan: Elections

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department has to monitor the presidential elections in Sudan in 2010. [281965]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We would like the 2010 presidential elections in Sudan to be observed by competent and experienced bodies and organisations, including for example the EU. The EU received an invitation from the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Elections

Commission in February 2009 to join a group of other countries and regional bodies to supply electoral observers. The UK will offer any assistance we can to the observer mission, including personnel.

### Tamils

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports of Tamil fighters aiding Taliban forces in Afghanistan. [281708]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have received no reports of Tamil fighters aiding the Taliban forces in Afghanistan.

### USA

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the shooting at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC on 10 June; and if he will make a statement. [280991]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We were shocked and saddened to hear of the tragic death of a security guard following the shooting incident at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC on 10 June 2009.

I have received no formal reports of this incident.

## TRANSPORT

### Satellite Navigation Devices

11. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the merits of regulating satellite navigation devices. [282108]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport has been reviewing route guidance system issues—including regulation—and believes that national regulation is not the most effective mechanism to address many of the concerns often associated with use of satellite navigation devices.

### Rail Network: Capacity

12. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the capacity of the rail network. [282109]

14. **Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had on overcrowding on the rail network. [282112]

**Chris Mole:** The Secretary of State has regular meetings with the train operating companies to discuss progress on delivery of our commitments to increase capacity as set out in the Rail White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway". 543 new vehicles have already been ordered to provide additional capacity in our busiest cities. This forms part of the £10 billion that we have committed to spend on enhancing rail capacity by 2014.

### Heathrow Airport

13. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had on the implications for air quality and road traffic congestion of a third runway at Heathrow airport. [282110]

**Paul Clark:** Ministers have had no such discussions since the Heathrow decisions were announced to Parliament on 15 January by my right hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State for Transport. It is now for BAA to decide how to take matters forward in the context of a planning application.

### Speed Limits

15. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had on speed limits on single-carriageway roads. [282113]

**Paul Clark:** In the current consultation entitled "A Safer Way", we propose a targeted approach in which local traffic authorities are encouraged to consider lower speed limits on those single carriageway roads where there are particular casualty problems. As part of the consultation the Department's officials are conducting discussions with a number of interested parties.

### Uninsured Drivers

16. **Paul Holmes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps the Secretary of State is taking to reduce the number of uninsured drivers. [282114]

**Paul Clark:** We have already enabled the police to have data on uninsured vehicles for use with their automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) equipment, and to seize and destroy vehicles being driven uninsured.

We introduced a new offence in August 2008 of "causing death by driving while unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured", which carries a custodial sentence of up to two years.

The Road Safety Act 2006 introduced a new offence of being a registered keeper of a vehicle for which there is no valid motor insurance, to be enforced from the record by a procedure of Continuous Insurance Enforcement. We intend to bring in further regulations to bring these provisions into force. It is planned to commence the Continuous Insurance Enforcement scheme in 2010-11 starting with an initial publicity campaign to raise public awareness.

### Concessionary Travel: Jobseekers

17. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the provision of concessionary travel for jobseekers attending interviews. [282115]

**Mr. Khan:** There have not been specific discussions on this issue with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. Jobcentre plus already offers a number of

schemes to help jobseekers with the cost of travel, including their Travel to Interview Scheme and help with train fares for those on the New Deal programme.

### NHS Facilities: Transport Requirements

18. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has issued any recent guidance on transport requirements in relation to new NHS facilities. [282116]

**Mr. Khan:** This summer we plan to publish Local Transport Plan guidance, which will encourage good integration between local transport authorities and NHS agencies. Relevant guidance has also been published by a local government led group on "Providing Transport in Partnership—a guide for health agencies and local authorities".

### London City Airport

19. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had with the National Air Traffic Service on the effect on congestion of the recent increase in traffic capacity at London City airport. [282117]

**Paul Clark:** None. The air traffic management aspects of implementing the increase in the number of annual flights at London City Airport approved last October by the London borough of Newham are an operational matter for NATS, regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority.

### Departmental Internet

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on departmental internet, how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions were received by each website operated by his Department in each of the last 12 months. [280719]

**Chris Mole:** Tables have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses showing websites currently maintained by the Department for Transport and the unique visitors and page impressions received by each website in each of the last 12 months.

Data are unavailable in some instances, either for technical reasons or because the website was not live at the time.

Since April 2009 the Department has been measuring website usage in line with the guidance issued by the Central Office of Information, 'Measuring website usage (TG116)'.

### Ports: Non-domestic Rates

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effect on businesses in and around ports of changes to port rating. [282111]

**Paul Clark:** Following representations received on behalf of businesses in ports, my predecessor, the hon. Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick), held discussions earlier this year with the Minister for Local Government, and with representatives of the ports. Department for Transport officials have discussed the matter with Department for Communities and Local Government officials.

### Railways: Franchises

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which train operator franchises include revenue support clauses. [279632]

**Chris Mole:** A revenue share/support mechanism means that where a train operating company generates revenue in excess of those agreed in their winning bid, the Government are entitled to a share, and similarly where revenue is lower, the Government supports the train operating company. The following train operating companies have a revenue share/support mechanism in their franchise agreement:

Arriva Cross Country (AXC)
East Midland Trains (EMT)
First Capital Connect FCC)
First Great Western (FGW)
London Midland (LOM)
London South Eastern Railway
National Express East Anglia (NXEA)
National Express East Coast (NXEC)
Northern Rail
Stagecoach South Western (SSW)
Virgin West Coast (VWC).

The recently let South Central, to begin in September of this year, has a revenue share/support mechanism.

Arriva Train Wales is part funded by the Department for Transport but is managed by the Welsh Assembly.

### Railways: Greater London

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to publish the Fares Direction for London; and whether the Direction will specify a date by which the use of Oyster Pay As You Go is to be accepted on the national rail network in the London area. [282268]

**Chris Mole:** The Department for Transport, Transport for London and train operators are working together on the acceptance of Oyster Pay as You Go at London train stations and the acceptance of ITSO Smartcards on Oyster equipment. Subject to a successful conclusion to the current discussions, which will include the issue of Fares Directions to the operators, we anticipate that Oyster will be accepted throughout the London network towards the end of the current year, or very early in 2010.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions the Secretary of State has had with the Mayor of London on *(a)* responsibility for the rail network in London and *(b)* re-zoning in London; and if he will make a statement. [282269]

**Chris Mole:** As part of regular meetings and correspondence between the Mayor and the Secretary of State for Transport, topics related to franchising such as the responsibility for the rail network in London, along with re-zoning have been discussed.

### Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the deferral by Network Rail of track renewals as a means to meet efficiency targets imposed by the Office of Rail Regulation; and if he will make a statement. [282267]

**Chris Mole:** Track renewal is an operational matter for Network Rail as it aims to deliver the output and efficiency targets agreed with the Independent Office of Rail Regulation over the next five years.

Network Rail will be investing almost £4 billion on an intensive track renewals programme over Control Period 4. The Office of Rail Regulation is satisfied that this funding provides for works that are sufficient to maintain safety and the quality of the rail network.

We understand that total outputs will remain as previously planned, although phasing adjustments in the early part of the five year period will result in a lower volume of track renewals in the first year to allow time for new and more efficient working methods to take effect.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many direct payments to farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy Single Payment Scheme have been reduced by *(a)* five per cent. and less and *(b)* 20 per cent. or more in (i) England, (ii) Essex and (iii) Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [278675]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of payments to Single Payment Scheme claimants in England that have been reduced by *(a)* 5 per cent. and less and *(b)* 20 per cent. or more as a result of the application of penalties during each scheme year since the scheme's introduction is provided in the following table.

| | *Scale of penalty applied* | |
|---|---|---|
| *SPS scheme year* | *5 per cent. and less* | *20 per cent. or more* |
| 2005 | 9,597 | 3,060 |
| 2006 | 8,406 | 1,487 |
| 2007 | 9,062 | 1,508 |
| 2008[1] | [1]5,173 | [1]672 |

[1] These numbers may increase when all payments for the 2008 scheme year have been made.

Unfortunately the data required to provide payment information for Essex and Castle Point constituency are not held in a form that is easily accessible. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Agriculture: Test Valley

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated for the development of environmentally-sustainable farming in the Test Valley borough in each of the last five years. [281374]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Resources for agri-environment agreements are allocated nationally by Natural England, rather than to individual boroughs. Over the past five calendar years, the following sums have been paid in agri-environment agreements on farms that include land within the Test Valley borough.

£

| *Calendar year* | *Countryside Environmentally stewardship scheme* | *sensitive area* | *Environmental stewardship* | *Total for year* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 1,025,752 | 185,832 | 0 | 1,211,584 |
| 2006 | 1,202,756 | 180,725 | 272,375 | 1,655,856 |
| 2007 | 1,091,348 | 177,768 | 1,144,338 | 2,413,454 |
| 2008 | 1,078,669 | 120,597 | 1,600,218 | 2,799,484 |
| 2009 (to 18 June) | 29,898 | 14,530 | 944,282 | 988,710 |

The Test and Itchen Valleys are one of Natural England's 110 Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Target Areas, designed to maximise environmental benefits and value for money from HLS agreements, published and promoted from November 2008.

*Source:*

The above information was provided by Natural England.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated for the support of farmers in the Test Valley borough in each of the last five years. [281375]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA does not record information on payments to farmers on a borough basis. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Agriculture: Waste Disposal

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Government have spent on research into *(a)* bioreducer methods, *(b)* anaerobic digestion, *(c)* biodigestion and *(d)* other methods for farmers to dispose of fallen stock in the last three years. [281984]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government have spent £213,590 on research into anaerobic digestion, £248,415 on research into biodigestion and £757,000 on research into other methods for disposal of contaminated animals in the last three years. DEFRA has not funded any specific research into bioreducer methods; however, the Welsh Assembly Government is currently funding research in this area.

### Central Science Laboratory: Consultants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much the

Central Science Laboratory spent on consultants in each of the last five years. [280340]

**Dan Norris:** The information requested is in the following table.

| *Financial year* | *£* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 385,617.65 |
| 2007-08 | 309,425.88 |
| 2006-07 | 365,955.89 |
| 2005-06 | 212,625.57 |
| 2004-05 | 250,115.72 |

The largest spends for CSL cover specific consultancy costs which relate to:

systems implementations
commercial advice re spinout company
science accreditation
facilities management
customer satisfaction independent surveys
operational process reviews

There were particular charges (e.g. IT, branding) incurred during the last year in relation to the establishment of the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera). Excluding these, the underlying CSL consultancy spend was £137,000.

### Dairy Farming: Government Assistance

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on assistance to farmers who lost money owing to the failure of Dairy Farmers of Great Britain. [281923]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* DEFRA Ministers hold regular discussions with HMT Ministers on a range of topics.

There are publicly-funded schemes available through Business Link to assist small businesses (such as farms) when they become affected by the economic downturn, or when they find their ability to get credit is affected in situations such as this. There is also the HMRC Business Payment Support Service, which may enable affected farmers to defer certain tax and national insurance payments.

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial support his Department has given to dairy farmers in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [281983]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Eligible dairy farmers receive support under a range of Common Agriculture Policy measures, including the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). The continued progress of the Rural Payments Agency in making more timely SPS payments has helped farmers' cash flow with around £1.6 billion (98 per cent.) paid to date under the 2008 scheme.

The Regional Development Agencies deliver a £300 million programme of investment in improving the competitiveness of farming and forestry under the 2007-13 Rural Development Programme for England, of which at least £107 million is being targeted at the livestock sector to help it meet the particular challenges that it faces.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of letters to his Department from hon. Members' Parliamentary offices were answered within 30 days of the date of receipt in each quarter from January 2008 to March 2009. [280464]

**Dan Norris:** The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2008 was published on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 80-86WS.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many public consultations have been conducted by his Department since 27 June 2007; what the title of each has been; how many responses were received at each; and what estimate has been made of the total cost incurred for each consultation. [280908]

**Dan Norris:** In line with the code of practice on consultations, DEFRA publishes all its consultation documents on its website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp

However, the 152 consultations DEFRA has conducted since 27 June 2007 to date are listed in the following table. The number of responses received for individual consultation is recorded in the Government response documents. All response documents that are produced are published on the departmental website alongside the consultations themselves. Information on the total cost incurred for each consultation is not available and could be obtained only at disproportional cost.

*Table: Consultations from 27 June 2007 to date*

| *Start date* | *End date* | *Consultation title* |
|---|---|---|
| 28 June 2009 | 21 September | Consultation on the interpretation of the definition of municipal waste used in the landfill allowance trading scheme |
| 3 July | 28 September | Consultation on implementation of part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 |
| 11 July | 1 October | Wildlife health strategy |
| 18 July | 10 October | Consultation on the fourth environmental permitting programme |
| 18 July | 10 October | Consultation on Salmonella in laying flocks |
| 19 July | 11 October | Consultation on DEFRA'S contingency plan for exotic animal diseases |
| 25 July | 19 October | Consultation on the implementation options for the transfer of private sewers to water and sewerage companies |
| 27 July | 19 October | Consultation on the soil framework directive |
| 1 August | 24 October | Consultation on the implementation of the European pollutant release and transfer register, and the establishment of a UK pollutant release and transfer register |
| 3 August | 26 October | Consultation on energy services directive |
| 13 August | 2 November | Consultation on "Recycle on the GO" |
| 15 August | 07 November | Consultation on UK report regarding plans and programmes to meet EU air quality limit values (reporting year 2005) |

*Table: Consultations from 27 June 2007 to date*

| *Start date* | *End date* | *Consultation title* |
|---|---|---|
| 17 August | 09 November | Consultation on Commission Proposal to recast Directive 92/34 on the marketing of fruit plant propagating material and plants |
| 21 August | 13 November | Consultation on Catchment Sensitive farming/nitrates and diffuse water pollution—three consultations to be launched |
| 7 September | 7 December | Consultation on statutory measures to protect areas of Lyme Bay |
| 10 September | 05-November | Consultation on a draft second edition of IPPC SG6 for A2 activities in the solvents sector |
| 19 September | 12-December | Consultation on a licensing scheme for the sale and purchase of non-compliant paints for use on historic buildings and vintage vehicles |
| 5 October | 4 January 2008 | Consultation on LA environmental regulation of industrial plant: 2008-09 fees and charges |
| 8 October | 30 November | Consultation on packaging targets |
| 10 October | 3 January 2008 | Consultation on Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 |
| 7 November | 20 November 2007 | Consultation on double tagging of sheep and goat |
| 8 November | 31 January 2008 | Consultations on amendment to schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and Orders to ban the sale of certain non-native species |
| 12 November | 4 February 2008 | Consultation on the implementation of the revised Bathing Water Directive |
| 12 October | 18 December 2007 | Consultation on amendments to mutilations regulations (England) 2007 |
| 12 October | 15 February 2008 | Consultation on a system of administrative penalties for fisheries offences |
| 13 October | 5 February 2008 | Consultation on possible changes of use of personal data held on the GB poultry register |
| 16 October | 22 February 2008 | Consultation on third sector |
| November 2007 | 14 January 2008 | Consultation on the merger of PSD into HSE |
| December 2007 | 7 March 2008 | Consultation on recreational sea angling |
| 11 December | 15 April 2008 | Consultation on cost sharing and responsibility sharing |
| 13 December | 6 March 2008 | Consultation on energy services directive article 5 |
| 19 December | 7 March 2008 | Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Directive transposition |
| 19 December | 19 March 2008 | Consultation on climate change simplification plan |
| 20 December | 13 March 2008 | Consultation on batteries—on not being hosted on DEFRA website-BERR website |
| 21 December | 14 March 2008 | Consultation on auction design for Phase II of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme |
| 31 December | 25 March 2008 | Consultation on spirits regulations |

*Table: Consultations from 27 June 2007 to date*

| *Start date* | *End date* | *Consultation title* |
|---|---|---|
| 31 December | 25 March 2008 | Consultation on Scotch Whisky regulations |
| 9 January 2008 | 17 January and 29 February 2008—2 dates | Consultation on proposal of two per cent. milk quotas |
| 14 January | 31 March 2008 | Consultation on national listing and plant breeders' right fees |
| 7 February | 30 April 2008 | Consultation on surface water management |
| 7 February | 30 April 2008 | Consultation on guidance to Ofwat |
| 7 February | 30 April 2008 | Consultation on phosphates in detergents-laundry |
| 17 January | 8 April | Consultation on mining waste Directive (CLG led) |
| 21 January | 14 April | Consultation on sustainable products (market transformation programme website) |
| 4 February | 6 May 2008 | Consultation on charging for CITES licences |
| 30 January 2008 | 29 April 2008 | Consultation on the future of the aggregates levy sustainability fund April 2008 to March 2011 |
| 25 February | 19 May 2008 | Consultation on river basin planning (volume) |
| 27 February 2008 | 19 May 2008 | Consultation on the transposition of Council Directive 2006/117/Euratom |
| 29 February 2008 | 23 May 2008 | Consultation on implementation of fruit and vegetable reforms |
| 29 February 2008 | 27 May 2008 | Consultation on Environmental Liability Directive: 2nd consultation |
| 7 March 2008 | 4 April | Consultation on European Fisheries Fund: UK Operational programme (1st phase) |
| 7 March 2008 | 18 April | Consultation on Fal and Helford |
| March 2008 | 30 May | Consultation on statutory notification requirements for potatoes introduced into England and Wales from other EU Member States |
| 17 March 2008 | 9 June | Consultation on joint waste authorities |
| 18 March 2008 | 29 April | Consultation on producer responsibility obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007; Directive 2004/12/EC (amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste). |
| 20 March | 25 April | Consultation on the remaking of the drinking milk reg's |
| 31 March | 23 June | Consultation on soil strategy for England |
| 3 April | 26 June | Consultation on TSE Regulations 2007 |
| 3 April | 26 June | Consultation draft Marine Bill |
| 8 April | 29 August | Consultation on the strategy of health of honey bees |
| 2 May | 27 June | Consultation on European Fisheries Fund: UK Operational programme (2nd phase) |
| 7 May | 30 July | Consultation on the EU Commission's proposals to amend the EU ETS from 2013 |
| 9 May | 23 May | Consultation on the remaking of Eggs and Chicks (England) Regulations 2008 |
| 14 May | 6 August | Consultation on draft AQEG report: Ozone in the United Kingdom |
| 14 May | 6 August | Consultation on EPAQS report: guidelines for metals and metalloids in ambient air for the protection of human health |
| 14 May | 6 August | Consultation on EPAQS report: Addendum to Guidelines for halogen and hydrogen halides in ambient air for protecting human health against acute irritancy effects |
| 28 May | 20 August | Consultation on Groundwater Regulations |

Table: Consultations from 27 June 2007 to date

| Start date | End date | Consultation title |
|---|---|---|
| 29 May | 25 July | Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) (Recast)—Intensive livestock |
| 29 May | 25 July | Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) (Recast) |
| 29 May | 25 July | Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control)(Recast)—Combustion Plants |
| 2 June | 25 August | Consultation on REACH Enforcement |
| 2 June | 22 August | Consultation on Dangerous wild animals Act 1976-reform order |
| 6 June | 31 July | Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control)(Recast)-emissions |
| 9 June | 1 September | Consultation on CAP Health checks |
| 13 June | 25 July | Consultation on Wine SI 2008 |
| 16 June | 11 August | Consultation on Sector Guidance Note SG8: Rendering |
| 13 June | 17 September | A second consultation on the controls on the handling, transfer and transport of waste |
| 12 June | | Consultation on White paper- Radioactive waste |
| 18 June | 30 September | Consultation on revised UK Strategy for Radioactive waste discharge limits 2006-2030 |
| 23 June | 17 October | Consultation on Revised Membership Arrangements for Northumberland National Park Authority |
| June 2008 | 22 September | Consultation on Wildlife Management strategy |
| 30 June | 30 September | Consultation on Our Seas-a shared resource |
| 1 July | 17 October | Consultation on The Beef and Veal Labelling Regulations 2008 (England) |
| 4 July | 26 September | Consultation on Air Quality guidance |
| 11 July | 3 October | Consultation on f gases and ozone |
| 15 July | 10 October | Consultation on Phytopthora Ramorem and Phytophthora kernoviae |
| 21 July | 10 October | Consultation on DEFRA's Contingency Plan |
| 21 July | 20 October | Consultation on Gangmasters Licensing (Exclusions) regulations |
| 25 July | 17 October | Consultation on changes to the Local Government Act 1972 to allow local authorities in England to work together on animal health |
| 28 July | 20 October | Consultation on a Code of Practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites |
| 28 July | 28 November | Consultation on Direct Elections to National Park Authorities |
| 30 July | 31 October | Consultation on flood resilience |
| 30 July | 31 October | Consultation on flooding, coastal erosion management |
| 31 July 2008 | 23 October | Consultation on review of Waste exemptions |
| 5 August 2008 | 28 October | Consultation on plans to meet EU air quality limit values |
| 8 August 2008 | 3 October | Consultation on the English inshore fleet-looking to the future |
| 11 August | 3 November | Consultation on private water supplies |
| 4 September | 28 November | Consultation on Aviation action plans |
| 5 September | 28 November | Consultation on VMD |
| 8 September | 28 November | Consultation on common land councils |

Table: Consultations from 27 June 2007 to date

| Start date | End date | Consultation title |
|---|---|---|
| 15 September | 14 November | Consultation on Recycling Service guidance |
| 23 September | 15 December | Consultation on NCP Broiler flocks reg's |
| 26 September | 19 December | Consultation on LA Environmental regulation of Industrial plant 2009-10 fees and charges |
| 30 September | 23 December | Consultation on the Conservation Varieties |
| 16 October | 19 December | Consultation on direction to the EA on classification of Water bodies |
| October 2008 | 3 December | Consultation on proposed changes to BSE Testing |
| 4 November | 31 December | Consultation on Code of practice on Cat, Dog and Equine |
| 4 November 2008 | 6 February | Consultation on revision of our swine vesicular disease legislation |
| 7 November | 30 January | Consultation on the code of practice for animal feeds |
| 10 November | 2 February | Consultation on the equine ID |
| 13 November 2008 | 6 February | Consultation on Animal By products regulations |
| 13 November 2008 | 6 February | Consultation on Hazardous waste regulations |
| 14 November | 6 February | Consultation on the Better Regulation review and six year review |
| 18 November | 10 February | Consultation on School Milk |
| 27 November | 19 February | Consultation on Marine Works (amendment to regulations) |
| 17 December | 20 March | Consultation on the Rules of court for the water and sewerage special administration regime |
| 17 December | 27 March | Consultation on National Flood Emergency framework |
| 22 December | 31 March 2009 | Consultation on Water Protection Zones |
| 22 December | 22 March | Consultation on Batteries Directive-draft regulations-to be published on BERR website |
| 6 January | 31 March | Consultation on handling LA's powers to regulate paint supplies |
| 16 January | 10 April | Consultation on regulations to allow the free passage of fish in inland waters |
| 20 January | 27 March | Consultation on allocating increased milk quota |
| 26 January | 20 April | Consultation to protect the welfare of chicken meat |
| 27 January | 20 April | Consultation on Air Quality directive extension |
| 27 January | 20 April | Consultation on the Welfare of Animals at killing |
| 16 February | 11 May | Consultation on proposed amendments to environmental noise (England) regulations 2006 |
| 16 February | 11 May | Consultation on Environmental Permitting Programme 2 |
| 27 February | 24 April | Consultation on the revised EU marketing standards for fruit and veg |
| 3 March | 26 May | Consultation on transposing INSPIRE Directive |
| 4 March | 27 May | Consultation on Changes to the Cross Compliance Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition Standards in England - 4 |
| 13 March | 24 April | Consultation on eggs and chicks regulations 2009 |
| 26 March | 19 June | Consultation on seeds certification fees |
| 27 March | 19 June | Consultation on the control of potato cyst nematodes |
| 27 March | 19 June | Consultation on Animal Act 1971- LRO |

*Table: Consultations from 27 June 2007 to date*

| *Start date* | *End date* | *Consultation title* |
|---|---|---|
| 30 March | 30 June | Consultation on Responsibility and Cost Sharing |
| 31 March | 23 June | Consultation on EID |
| 31 March | 20 April | Consultation on Statutory Instrument for a Code of Conduct for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) Conservation Boards |
| 20 April | 13 July | Consultation on MPA Strategy |
| 21 April | 24 July | Consultation on draft floods and water Bill |
| 27 April | 20 July | Consultation on veterinary entry checks on rabies-susceptible animals |
| 29 April | 22 July | Consultation on water abstractions regulations |
| 29 April | 22 July | Consultation on implementation of the CAP health checks reforms relating to the SPS and other direct payments |
| 30 April | 22 July | Consultation on Greyhound regulations |
| 30 April | 31 July | Consultation on the Revised Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice |
| 5 May | 24 June | Consultation on Commission Proposal for a new Control Regulation |
| 6 May | 29 July | Consultation on EPP2 guidance |
| 12 May | 4 August | Consultation on Time limiting water abstractions |
| 22 May | 17 August | Consultation on Koi Herpes Virus Disease Status (KHV) |
| 5 June | 3 August | Consultation on minor amendments to the Habitats regulations |
| 5 June | 7 August | Consultation on draft guidance how to measure and report your greenhouse gases |
| 11 June | 4 September | Consultation on EUP Labelling market surveillance and enforcement |
| 15 June | 25 September | Consultation on coastal erosion |
| 18 June 2009 | 9 September | Consultation on reporting power in the Climate Change Act |

### Floods: Cabinet Committees

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy that the Cabinet Committee on Flooding should meet at least three times a year. [276904]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office gave to her on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 50-51W.

This answer stated that it is established practice that information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including exactly when and how often they are to meet, is not disclosed.

### Floods: Canvey Island

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of buildings on Canvey Island which *(a)* are not flood-resistant and *(b)* are flood resilient. [281325]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** No estimate has been made of the number of properties on Canvey Island that are flood resistant or resilient. However, the Environment Agency spent over £4 million in 2006 to improve the drainage of the island and address fluvial flooding issues.

### Floods: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of buildings in Peterborough which *(a)* are not flood-resistant and *(b)* are flood resilient. [281664]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA has made no estimate of the number of properties in Peterborough that are, or are not flood resistant or resilient.

We are considering how a realistic national estimate can be effectively and economically achieved using information sourced locally. The route for providing the appropriate information for such an estimate will be clearer after the passage of the Flood and Water Management Bill through Parliament.

### Forests

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of land in England is *(a)* woodland and *(b)* covered by peat. [281980]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The provisional figure published in June this year for woodland is 1.128 million hectares or 9 per cent. of England's land area.

It is estimated that 3-4 per cent. of England's land area is covered by peat soils. This figure refers to substantial peat deposits of at least 40cm in depth. This estimate excludes small pockets of peat in areas that are mapped as part of other soil types.

### Livestock

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his assessment is of the cost to farmers of livestock rustling in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 to date; and if he will make a statement. [281894]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Comprehensive figures on livestock rustling are not held centrally therefore we have made no assessment of the cost incurred to farmers. Such offences would come under Home Office classification 49 'Other theft or unauthorised taking' and cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded under that classification.

However, the Cattle Tracing System shows the following numbers of cattle have been reported to British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) as stolen:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 7,175 |
| 2008 | 5,553 |
| 2009 | 4,047 |

*Source:*
Figures provided by the BCMS.

### Marine and Coastal Access Bill

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what forecast he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of the inshore fisheries and conservation authorities proposed under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill. [281498]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Over 2009-11, one-off costs related to implementation of the reform package will be made available. This will be in the region of £1.6 million based on current estimates. In addition, the establishment of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) will result in an estimated additional financial burden on constituent local authorities of approximately £5 million per year. This will include expenditure on:

(i) effective management of estuarine and coastal areas that have previously been subject to low intervention;

(ii) enhanced byelaw making procedures, including improved evidence-based decision making and consultation on impact assessments;

(iii) increased monitoring, inspection and enforcement (including more enforcement officers); and

(iv) improved staff training and development.

A consultation setting out options for establishing future IFC district boundaries and the local authorities that will fall within the districts closed on 22 April and the Government intend to publish its response this summer. The outcome of the consultation will help inform what changes need to be made and their associated costs. Officials will work closely with Sea Fisheries Committees and local authorities to quantify the changes necessary.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Billericay of 6 April and 7 May 2009 regarding his constituent Fran Smith. [282181]

**Dan Norris:** The hon. Member for Billericay's letters of 6 April and 7 May regarding his constituent Fran Smith were replied to by my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy) on 10 May.

### Ministers: Working Hours

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hours he spent on his ministerial duties in the seven-day period beginning Sunday 7 June 2009. [282180]

**Dan Norris:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) had a full diary of official duties.

### River Humber

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely effect on levels of greenhouse gas emissions of the designation of the River Humber as a sensitive area under the EU urban waste water treatment directive; and if he will make a statement. [280779]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Yorkshire Water estimates (based on United Kingdom Water Industry Research Limited, Greenhouse Gas workbook) that designation will increase carbon dioxide equivalents by 380 kilotonnes during construction and 125 kilotonnes per year through operations.

Severn Trent Water estimates an increase of between 100 and 150 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide per year, a 20 to 30 per cent. increase on current emissions. Additional emissions from Anglian Water will be much smaller.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the costs which would be incurred if the River Humber were to be designated as a sensitive area under the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive; and if he will make a statement. [280780]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** If the UK was required to designate the Humber as sensitive to eutrophication, industry has estimated the capital cost of additional treatment to be approximately £900 million, with operating costs of approximately £50 million a year.

### Rural Payments Agency: Complaints

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints in relation to the processing of claims by the Rural Payments Agency his Department has received in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [282037]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 24 June 2009]:* The following table sets out how many complaints in respect of the single payment scheme have been dealt with by the Rural Payments Agency for the last three years.

| *Financial year* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 2,569 |
| 2007-08 | 1,149 |
| 2008-09 | 942 |

*Note:*
1. Financial years cover the period 1 April to 31 March.
2. The figures for 2008-09 are subject to confirmation in the annual Exchequer audit.

### Sheep

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 96W, on sheep, what estimate has been made of the number of sheep in each county in England in each year since 1997. [281992]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The total number of sheep and lambs in England by county/unitary authority in each year since 1997 are shown in the following tables.

Figures for 1999 onwards can also be found on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/esg/work_htm/publications/cs/farmstats_web/2_SURVEY_DATA_SEARCH/COMPLETE_DATASETS/regional_level_datasets.htm

*Table 1: Total sheep and lambs by county/unitary authority, 1997 to 2002*

| *County/UA* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees | 23,436 | 24,468 | 24,015 | 21,907 | 18,619 | 16,481 |

*Table 1: Total sheep and lambs by county/unitary authority, 1997 to 2002*

| County/UA | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Teesside | 27,715 | 30,228 | 30,708 | 29,314 | 27,861 | 23,118 |
| Darlington | 30,449 | 30,252 | 31,797 | 29,944 | 20,226 | 18,075 |
| Durham CC | 678,435 | 685,483 | 689,716 | 650,712 | 500,085 | 522,161 |
| Northumberland | 1,664,446 | 1,680,887 | 1,719,011 | 1,642,218 | 1,395,748 | 1,343,874 |
| Tyneside | 10,023 | 10,862 | 10,750 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Sunderland | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| West Cumbria | 716,598 | 746,378 | 733,959 | 705,904 | 368,594 | 488,592 |
| East Cumbria | 1,975,625 | 2,061,168 | 2,041,301 | 1,928,069 | 1,130,470 | 1,313,197 |
| Halton and Warrington | 3,624 | 3,488 | 4,152 | 4,669 | 4,457 | 4,040 |
| Cheshire CC | 205,653 | 214,103 | 215,542 | 203,685 | 194,710 | 177,920 |
| Greater Manchester South | 16,813 | 16,822 | 16,442 | 20,349 | 19,772 | 17,178 |
| Greater Manchester North | 56,745 | 53,704 | 57,903 | 51,454 | 54,129 | 49,010 |
| Blackburn With Darwen | 20,036 | 21,173 | 21,229 | 21,230 | 17,342 | 16,925 |
| Blackpool | [1] | [1] | 0 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Lancashire CC | 788,668 | 823,332 | 800,283 | 776,586 | 703,264 | 656,886 |
| East Merseyside | 6,399 | 6,923 | 7,430 | 6,061 | 6,452 | 6,336 |
| Liverpool | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Sefton | 334 | 659 | 417 | [1] | [1] | 249 |
| Wirral | 1,504 | 1,442 | 1,639 | 1,528 | 1,506 | [1] |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 121,399 | 115,301 | 114,603 | 110,654 | 105,164 | 91,389 |
| North and North East Lincolnshire | 12,614 | 12,990 | 14,269 | 12,591 | 13,085 | 11,873 |
| York | 13,836 | 14,467 | 14,721 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| North Yorkshire CC | 2,082,611 | 2,145,678 | 2,160,335 | 2,077,156 | 1,793,702 | 1,675,339 |
| Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham | 50,370 | 51,263 | 55,386 | 52,214 | 47,882 | 41,496 |
| Sheffield | 36,273 | 39,669 | 30,172 | 31,464 | 35,243 | 35,210 |
| Bradford | 74,334 | 80,623 | 75,983 | 76,204 | 73,352 | 70,360 |
| Leeds | 51,544 | 51,709 | 50,187 | 46,567 | 44,880 | 38,615 |
| Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield | 111,848 | 117,944 | 117,051 | 109,134 | 105,569 | 107,925 |
| Derby | [1] | [1] | [1] | 28,563 | [1] | [1] |
| East Derbyshire | 27,584 | 29,113 | 30,056 | [1] | 25,663 | 21,540 |
| South and West Derbyshire | 429,662 | 459,537 | 459,847 | 438,425 | 420,812 | 377,670 |
| Nottingham | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| North Nottinghamshire | 53,816 | 49,482 | 57,508 | 58,313 | 49,441 | 46,320 |
| South Nottinghamshire | 32,238 | 32,401 | 28,265 | 27,575 | [1] | [1] |
| Leicester | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] |
| Leicestershire CC and Rutland | 411,401 | 427,810 | 434,168 | 390,411 | 374,035 | 340,160 |
| Northamptonshire | 398,006 | 411,666 | 418,480 | 406,457 | 387,762 | 329,594 |
| Lincolnshire | 218,252 | 225,666 | 233,901 | 206,494 | 191,988 | 169,317 |
| Herefordshire, County of | 807,253 | 845,061 | 851,417 | 799,820 | 664,610 | 644,216 |
| Worcestershire | 378,186 | 393,374 | 395,697 | 377,145 | 336,362 | 309,974 |
| Warwickshire | 328,798 | 355,204 | 361,938 | 358,192 | 339,797 | 301,609 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 9,705 | 10,848 | 10,773 | 11,273 | 11,492 | 9,970 |
| Shropshire CC | 923,438 | 958,173 | 979,024 | 909,128 | 836,216 | 762,901 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 502 | 685 | 883 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Staffordshire CC | 297,542 | 308,388 | 322,042 | 305,150 | 276,732 | 259,300 |
| Birmingham | 1,025 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Solihull | 16,627 | 17,438 | 17,215 | 17,760 | 11,314 | 13,726 |
| Coventry | 1,813 | 2,925 | 2,816 | 2,589 | 2,552 | 2,422 |
| Dudley and Sandwell | 1,168 | 1,208 | 1,277 | 1,147 | 855 | 793 |
| Walsall and Wolverhampton | 1,031 | 1,092 | 1,243 | 683 | 542 | 553 |
| Peterborough | 9,445 | 12,265 | 11,141 | 49,135 | 10,548 | 8,728 |
| Cambridgeshire CC | 43,557 | 42,455 | 44,401 | 11,129 | 47,262 | 34,548 |
| Norfolk | 145,746 | 144,935 | 149,276 | 144,307 | 136,367 | 106,114 |
| Suffolk | 68,421 | 76,199 | 74,317 | 82,795 | 72,985 | 77,229 |
| Luton | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Bedfordshire CC | 58,147 | 58,034 | 61,168 | 56,409 | 53,482 | 45,018 |
| Hertfordshire | 43,606 | 44,219 | 42,750 | 38,143 | 40,739 | 32,687 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Thurrock | 2,749 | 2,811 | 2,870 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Essex CC | 74,066 | 67,556 | 70,067 | 66,014 | 59,455 | 56,122 |
| Inner London: West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65,970 | [1] |
| Inner London: East | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 21,281 | 45 |
| Outer London: East and North East | 1,696 | 1,519 | 1,683 | [1] | 204,408 | [1] |

*Table 1: Total sheep and lambs by county/unitary authority, 1997 to 2002*

| County/UA | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outer London: South | 387 | 577 | 907 | 649 | 194,395 | 746 |
| Outer London: West and North West | 888 | 1,926 | 1,939 | 1,699 | [1] | 848 |
| Berkshire | 60,837 | 71,968 | 75,616 | 70,196 | 291,072 | 58,114 |
| Milton Keynes | 29,565 | 27,385 | 28,528 | 26,025 | 75,887 | 21,576 |
| Buckinghamshire CC | 186,506 | 199,017 | 220,705 | 208,804 | 114,130 | 180,258 |
| Oxfordshire | 208,953 | 218,569 | 219,270 | 211,197 | [1] | 172,395 |
| Brighton and Hove | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 151 | 3,554 |
| East Sussex CC | 279,868 | 289,435 | 302,772 | 299,664 | 145,891 | 271,572 |
| Surrey | 76,210 | 75,395 | 76,708 | 80,907 | 33,096 | 64,931 |
| West Sussex | 140,226 | 138,258 | 127,124 | 121,364 | [1] | 102,861 |
| Portsmouth | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 451,145 | [1] |
| Southampton | [1] | 149 | 162 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Hampshire CC | 161,303 | 160,422 | 156,850 | 154,421 | [1] | 129,661 |
| Isle of Wight | 36,568 | 38,784 | 38,715 | 35,083 | [1] | 30,738 |
| Medway | 8,416 | 7,737 | 7,920 | 7,949 | 854 | 9,594 |
| Kent CC | 514,911 | 511,487 | 508,048 | 491,865 | 1,230 | 383,725 |
| Bristol, City of | 416 | 427 | 419 | [1] | 1,232 | [1] |
| N and NE Somerset, South Glos | 100,105 | 102,743 | 98,295 | 98,595 | 95,202 | 84,217 |
| Gloucestershire | 403,875 | 414,686 | 425,662 | 418,837 | 334,173 | 329,925 |
| Swindon | 16,683 | 15,814 | 13,121 | 13,360 | 11,699 | 6,960 |
| Wiltshire CC | 203,393 | 194,027 | 203,037 | 199,164 | 193,195 | 171,851 |
| Bournemouth and Poole | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Dorset CC | 209,155 | 221,225 | 226,936 | 219,057 | 200,171 | 176,598 |
| Somerset | 572,797 | 590,196 | 605,745 | 583,969 | 551,959 | 490,772 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 601,534 | 631,841 | 639,631 | 607,512 | 575,228 | 521,136 |
| Plymouth | 3,802 | 2,891 | 2,721 | 2,657 | [1] | [1] |
| Torbay | 4,287 | 2,794 | 2,944 | 3,945 | 2,151 | [1] |
| Devon CC | 1,828,808 | 1,921,261 | 1,937,405 | 1,817,687 | 1,472,395 | 1,445,962 |

*Table 2: Total sheep and lambs by county/unitary authority, 2003-08*

| County/UA | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees | 17,181 | 17,079 | 16,266 | 14,772 | 16,019 | 15,136 |
| South Teesside | 23,412 | 19,538 | 20,828 | 18,577 | 21,348 | 20,404 |
| Darlington | 18,415 | 18,375 | 16,794 | 15,315 | 15,892 | 16,118 |
| Durham CC | 543,114 | 561,614 | 562,817 | 544,838 | 544,976 | 542,014 |
| Northumberland | 1,350,851 | 1,356,865 | 1,351,097 | 1,336,393 | 1,328,927 | 1,340,250 |
| Tyneside | [1] | 7,686 | [1] | [1] | 7,599 | 8,298 |
| Sunderland | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 370 | 223 |
| West Cumbria | 513,535 | 546,115 | 538,031 | 544,865 | 533,002 | 538,986 |
| East Cumbria | 1,437,605 | 1,480,984 | 1,511,508 | 1,495,375 | 1,474,746 | 1,490,758 |
| Halton and Warrington | 4,100 | 4,026 | 4,506 | 3,868 | 3,063 | 2,690 |
| Cheshire CC | 184,408 | 188,539 | 188,569 | 186,184 | 186,467 | 198,302 |
| Greater Manchester South | 18,401 | 19,661 | 17,467 | 17,261 | 16,581 | 18,550 |
| Greater Manchester North | 49,784 | 52,712 | 50,789 | 52,801 | 45,342 | 48,021 |
| Blackburn With Darwen | 18,003 | 18,432 | 15,644 | 16,437 | 16,657 | 17,283 |
| Blackpool | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Lancashire CC | 659,433 | 679,395 | 703,846 | 694,142 | 685,783 | 686,631 |
| East Merseyside | 6,481 | 6,296 | 6,738 | 6,937 | 7,130 | 7,070 |
| Liverpool | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Sefton | [1] | 287 | 297 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Wirral | 740 | 775 | 867 | 880 | 852 | 1,303 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 85,921 | 83,908 | 85,716 | 92,890 | 87,934 | 87,745 |
| North and North East Lincolnshire | 11,608 | 11,306 | 10,790 | 10,685 | 10,904 | 11,275 |
| York | [1] | 9,512 | [1] | [1] | 11,970 | [1] |
| North Yorkshire CC | 1,746,518 | 1,792,219 | 1,817,514 | 1,772,569 | 1,761,878 | 1,776,955 |
| Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham | 43,752 | 45,145 | 44,483 | 44,634 | 46,268 | 49,165 |
| Sheffield | 36,904 | 37,291 | 39,280 | 34,133 | [1] | 34,854 |
| Bradford | 74,406 | 77,306 | 73,955 | 71,685 | 71,225 | 73,623 |
| Leeds | 38,736 | 37,777 | 38,292 | 35,738 | 34,711 | 36,428 |
| Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield | 104,206 | 104,220 | 106,405 | 109,051 | 103,087 | 106,579 |
| Derby | [1] | 146 | 162 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| East Derbyshire | 19,741 | 19,912 | 20,816 | 19,192 | 19,082 | 19,572 |
| South and West Derbyshire | 377,371 | 389,246 | 397,190 | 392,489 | 386,963 | 384,459 |

*Table 2: Total sheep and lambs by county/unitary authority, 2003-08*

| County/UA | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nottingham | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| North Nottinghamshire | 46,096 | 44,750 | 44,891 | 45,463 | 45,318 | 42,205 |
| South Nottinghamshire | [1] | 27,683 | 28,043 | 31,879 | 29,149 | 32,151 |
| Leicester | [1] | [1] | [1] | 0 | [1] | [1] |
| Leicestershire CC and Rutland | 344,400 | 336,798 | 330,010 | 314,214 | 309,641 | 304,652 |
| Northamptonshire | 331,450 | 317,372 | 304,738 | 295,531 | 289,253 | 285,314 |
| Lincolnshire | 162,186 | 159,071 | 152,800 | 155,469 | 155,447 | 151,186 |
| Herefordshire, County of | 654,222 | 655,951 | 657,876 | 665,515 | 636,598 | 624,204 |
| Worcestershire | 316,360 | 317,322 | 311,682 | 306,347 | 299,643 | 297,691 |
| Warwickshire | 289,604 | 290,043 | 288,812 | 274,989 | 277,491 | 282,537 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 10,365 | 10,762 | 11,286 | 10,891 | 9,499 | 11,030 |
| Shropshire CC | 776,561 | 778,932 | 795,591 | 770,107 | 762,860 | 761,313 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | [1] | 455 | [1] | 700 | [1] | 811 |
| Staffordshire CC | 263,551 | 267,828 | 272,269 | 263,079 | 267,461 | 268,627 |
| Birmingham | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Solihull | 13,488 | 12,584 | 13,108 | 15,339 | 13,171 | 12,800 |
| Coventry | 1,927 | 2,147 | 1,751 | 1,859 | 1,824 | 2,072 |
| Dudley and Sandwell | 823 | 834 | 878 | 786 | 820 | 840 |
| Walsall and Wolverhampton | 458 | 429 | 915 | [1] | 205 | [1] |
| Peterborough | 6,918 | 7,299 | 7,464 | 6,034 | 5,645 | 5,419 |
| Cambridgeshire CC | 32,145 | 32,197 | 30,372 | 30,175 | 31,157 | 31,288 |
| Norfolk | 98,546 | 100,167 | 104,691 | 109,321 | 114,136 | 114,032 |
| Suffolk | 79,793 | 74,755 | 72,359 | 68,830 | 80,460 | 77,864 |
| Luton | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Bedfordshire CC | 39,227 | 37,922 | 36,697 | 34,937 | 34,340 | 40,017 |
| Hertfordshire | 34,033 | 33,810 | 35,759 | 39,041 | 32,758 | 35,183 |
| Southend-on-Sea | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Thurrock | 1,060 | 1,054 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Essex CC | 54,796 | 56,358 | 57,143 | 53,541 | 55,104 | 54,863 |
| Inner London: West | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Inner London: East | [1] | 53 | [1] | [1] | 93 | 128 |
| Outer London: East and North East | [1] | 1,458 | [1] | 1,473 | 1,428 | 1,487 |
| Outer London: South | 803 | 863 | 884 | 735 | 2,744 | 1,150 |
| Outer London: West and North West | 745 | 617 | [1] | [1] | 516 | 518 |
| Berkshire | 56,680 | 55,915 | 57,275 | 60,383 | 51,349 | 47,603 |
| Milton Keynes | 21,644 | 20,470 | 18,749 | 17,663 | 17,737 | 17,664 |
| Buckinghamshire CC | 177,777 | 173,111 | 170,289 | 160,366 | 161,477 | 166,250 |
| Oxfordshire | 164,954 | 165,511 | 160,022 | 157,833 | 159,525 | 163,917 |
| Brighton and Hove | [1] | 2,503 | 3,458 | [1] | 8,920 | 9,683 |
| East Sussex CC | 271,932 | 265,493 | 263,694 | 264,210 | 250,940 | 252,433 |
| Surrey | 66,098 | 67,010 | 63,769 | 63,259 | 63,200 | 62,781 |
| West Sussex | 102,798 | 99,265 | 97,649 | 101,187 | 100,904 | 103,303 |
| Portsmouth | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Southampton | 149 | 58 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Hampshire CC | 128,871 | 130,219 | 125,318 | 120,259 | 123,763 | 129,413 |
| Isle of Wight | 35,042 | 34,479 | 37,269 | 35,677 | 33,442 | 36,855 |
| Medway | 9,626 | 9,413 | 8,649 | 4,760 | 7,541 | 8,533 |
| Kent CC | 388,783 | 383,489 | 376,158 | 371,318 | 362,698 | 360,954 |
| Bristol, City of | 740 | 726 | 814 | 734 | 872 | 891 |
| N and NE Somerset, South Glos | 81,667 | 80,452 | 79,380 | 81,308 | 77,263 | 84,286 |
| Gloucestershire | 335,715 | 337,669 | 330,676 | 341,515 | 331,053 | 322,714 |
| Swindon | 6,394 | 6,098 | 6,343 | 6,212 | 3,550 | 4,198 |
| Wiltshire CC | 175,860 | 178,264 | 175,734 | 166,258 | 164,536 | 174,961 |
| Bournemouth and Poole | 402 | 423 | 1,714 | 1,869 | 1,564 | 1,885 |
| Dorset CC | 187,750 | 186,889 | 185,437 | 193,455 | 191,232 | 198,080 |
| Somerset | 494,854 | 506,873 | 495,195 | 474,258 | 487,253 | 489,416 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 525,057 | 527,466 | 519,812 | 521,033 | 501,658 | 503,374 |
| Plymouth | 759 | 813 | 697 | 1,235 | 640 | 734 |
| Torbay | 2,505 | 2,608 | 2,831 | 3,272 | 3,144 | 2,712 |
| Devon CC | 1,474,609 | 1,481,181 | 1,474,328 | 1,465,263 | 1,399,574 | 1,402,422 |

[1] Suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings.

*Source:*
June Agricultural Survey.

### Waste Disposal: Private Finance Initiative

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the use of private finance initiative funding for waste disposal projects in circumstances where the local authority has opted not to use incineration as a waste disposal method. [281780]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA's policy is not prescriptive in relation to the disposal technology procured by an authority using private finance initiative (PFI) funding. DEFRA does however insist that a thorough appraisal of the options is performed and documented as part of the Outline Business Case (OBC). The technology selected for the OBC forms the basis of the OBC costings but does not determine the choice of technology which is ultimately selected in the procurement stage. Hence PFI credit support is not tied to any type of technology and is available to projects both with and without combustion as part of their waste management solution.

Any new infrastructure proposals should not be at the expense of reduction, reuse and recycling of waste.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Children

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* identify viable alternatives to child labour and *(b)* improve children's working conditions in the mining industry in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [281621]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Viable alternatives to child labour in Afghanistan include raising family incomes and increasing the availability of primary and secondary education. The Department for International Development (DFID) is helping raise family incomes by spending over £180 million on economic development over the next four years (nationally and in Helmand province). DFID's support for schooling comprises a £225 million contribution to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) over the next four years.

Afghanistan has now signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which recognises the right of the child to be:

> 'protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.'

Afghanistan's responsibilities under this Convention are monitored by the Afghanistan Independent Human Right Commission, support for which is provided by a number of other donors. The Government of Afghanistan has also recently launched a programme that will help identify unlicensed mining operations and enforce safer mining practices.

### Africa: Females

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist women and girls in Africa whose employment and education is jeopardised by the recession. [281620]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK's strategy for helping poor countries respond to the impact of the recession includes mobilising additional external resources, especially from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international financial institutions. An extra $50 billion of concessional resources for low-income countries was committed at the London summit in April. The IMF has increased concessional funds to crisis affected countries, helping partner governments to maintain funding of social programmes.

The UK has committed £200 million to a new vulnerability fund, managed by the World Bank, which will scale up social protection. Women and other vulnerable groups are explicitly targeted in many Department for International Development programmes and we have stepped up our bilateral support for social protection. In 2007-08, DFID spent £45 million on social protection in Africa, an increase from £35 million in 2006-07.

### Burma: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the number of people who have moved from Burma to Thailand as a result of the renewed military action in the eastern part of that country; and whether such people have access to humanitarian assistance. [281908]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Latest estimates from the government of Thailand, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) suggest that about 3,000 people have recently entered Thailand to escape fighting in eastern Burma.

Humanitarian assistance for the refugees is being provided by the Thai authorities, UNHCR, the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) and other NGOs. This assistance includes food, plastic sheeting for shelter, blankets, bed-nets and medical care. The Thai authorities are co-ordinating with UNHCR, TBBC and other NGOs on a medium-term plan for caring for the new refugees.

DFID plans to provide about £7.4 million over the next three years to support Burmese refugees in Thailand and internally displaced people inside Burma. This funding includes £1.1 million for TBBC this financial year.

### Burma: Overseas Aid

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to provide famine relief in Chin state, Western Burma in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [281989]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** In September 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) approved a grant of £600,000 for emergency aid for people in Chin State suffering from food shortages as a result of rat infestations. In March this year, we increased our funding to £880,000 in response to further needs assessments. The aid is delivered through the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme and their local partners. About 65,000 people have now benefited from it. We continue to keep the situation under close review.

We are also considering, in consultation with the United Nations and other donors, how best to address longer-term food security needs in Chin State and other parts of Burma.

### Cambodia: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of Government corruption on the effectiveness of UK aid to Cambodia. [281689]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Government corruption does not have a significant impact on the effectiveness of UK aid to Cambodia. When designing programmes the Department for International Development (DFID) works closely with the Cambodian Government and other development partners to mitigate against this risk and monitor progress throughout implementation. We also provide support to a joint programme to reform the management of public finances, which continues to make good progress in improving the Cambodian Government's financial systems.

Only 8 per cent. of UK assistance to Cambodia was channelled directly through government systems in 2008. For this, we also designed additional safeguards to ensure UK aid was used effectively, including additional reporting by government on the use of funds. A recent independent country programme evaluation concluded that DFID had made a "significant contribution" to development in Cambodia.

### Departmental Drinking Water

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each of the last six months. [282316]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Since January 2008, the Department for International Development no longer purchases bottled mineral water as a matter of course, but instead uses bottled filtered mains water that is prepared on site. This change was made on the grounds of economy and environmental benefits.

### Departmental Flags

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many flags his Department owns; and how much has been spent on maintaining flags owned by his Department in the last 12 months. [282288]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not incurred expenditure on the maintenance of flags in the last 12 months.

Information on flags held by overseas offices is not held centrally and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* buying and *(b)* renting cars in the last financial year for which records are available. [275525]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold a central record of expenditure on buying and renting cars. Compiling this information would incur disproportionate cost.

### Development Aid

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of UK overseas development aid on the level of Government corruption in natural resource exporting countries which receive that aid; and if he will make a statement. [281687]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) assesses the risk and impact of corruption as part of its country planning process through Fiduciary Risk Assessments and the mandatory Country Governance Analysis (CGA). Recent CGA's have shown positive trends on corruption in a number of natural resource exporting countries where DFID provides support.

For example at the international level, the UK has led on the development of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which requires participating companies in the extractives sector to publish what they pay and governments to publish what they receive in revenues. 28 countries are implementing the EITI and 11 countries have so far produced one or more EITI reports. This represents important progress in the transparency and anti-corruption agendas in natural resource exporting countries. Further information on the EITI can be found on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Global-Issues/Working-to-make-Global-Aid-more-effective/International-Aid-Transparency-Initiative/

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of Government corruption on the effectiveness of UK overseas development aid to developing countries; [281688]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) undertakes Fiduciary Risk Assessments (FRAs) in all countries to which DFID is providing, or considering providing, financial aid. These include an explicit assessment of the risk of corruption, the strength of Government financial management systems and the potential effect of the on all Government expenditure including UK aid.

All FRAs are subject to an external independent scrutiny and are updated through annual statements of progress.

### Pakistan: International Assistance

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the shortfall in financial assistance for the UN appeal for internally displaced persons from Swat and other parts of Malakand in north west Pakistan; and what plans his Department has for the provision of further assistance to the appeal. [281907]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** There have been regular discussions between members of the Cabinet, including the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for International Development, and the Government of Pakistan, on the needs of those displaced by conflict in Pakistan. The Prime Minister has also spoken with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the Minister of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, West (Mr. Thomas), recently met with John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The Department for International Development (DFID) and UK embassies have been lobbying international donors, including the European Commission, to increase their contribution to the response to the humanitarian emergency in North West Pakistan. Funding for the appeal has been increasing and currently stands at 35.5 per cent. We have so far provided £22 million of humanitarian aid, including £12.5 million in support of the UN's appeal. This is the second largest bilateral contribution to the humanitarian effort. We will continue to monitor the humanitarian situation and funding position, and will consider additional funding if needed.

### Pakistan: Overseas Aid

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to aid refugees from the Swat valley living in camps or ad hoc accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [281672]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has so far made available £22 million of humanitarian aid for those people who have been displaced by conflict in Pakistan's federally administered tribal areas and north west frontier province, including the Swat valley. £12.5 million of this has been allocated to support the UN co-ordinated Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan and £9 million has been allocated to the International Committee for the Red Cross. The remainder of our funding is being used to support a local non governmental organisation working with the displaced and to help the overall coordination of the humanitarian effort.

An estimated total of 2.4 million people have been displaced, of which about 200,000 are living in camps and the rest with host communities. DFID's funding is providing food, shelter, water and sanitation, healthcare and protection for the most vulnerable. DFID is also making contributions to the funding that is being provided by the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund and by the European Commission.

### Sri Lanka: Children

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to aid children injured or displaced during the recent conflict in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [281671]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Since September 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £12.5 million of humanitarian assistance to NGOs and UN agencies operating in Sri Lanka. This is providing a wide range of life saving activities including child protection activities, emergency surgery and post-operative follow-up care for war wounded civilians, many of them children.

The UK Government also contribute to UNICEF's work to protect child rights in Sri Lanka. UNICEF monitors instances of child recruitment, works to secure the release of child soldiers and runs a rehabilitation centre for former child combatants.

### Uganda: Maternity Services

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve the survival rate of mothers during childbirth in northern Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [281619]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is working with the Ugandan Government to improve access to good quality health services, including family planning, throughout the country. Our budget support is being used to raise the performance of the Ugandan health system and ensure health workers are well trained and adequately resourced with drugs and supplies.

Over half of the £100 million DFID has programmed for recovery in northern Uganda is targeted at improving the quality of services in conflict affected districts. The programme will help to ensure that good quality maternal health care services are established in these districts of northern Uganda.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Age

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the average age of the population in each district in each year since 1997. [281982]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the average age of the population in each district in each year since 1997. (281982)

Table 1 shows the median age of the resident population in each local authority district in the UK for the years 1997 to 2007. These figures are based on the mid-year population estimates and mid-2007 is the latest year for which data are available.

A copy of the table will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Carbon Emissions: Departmental Coordination

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1847W, on carbon emissions, what cross-departmental co-operation her Department is supporting. [281306]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Department for Energy and Climate Change is responsible for the formulation of Government policy on addressing carbon emissions.

The Cabinet Office's role is to support the co-ordination of Government policy. It does so by supporting Cabinet and Cabinet Committee system, which provides a framework for the collective consideration of, and decisions on, major policy issues and questions of significant public interest.

Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when and how often they meet, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

### Lord Paul of Marylebone

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether Lord Paul of Marylebone has a security pass for 10 Downing Street; and if she will make a statement. [281911]

**Angela E. Smith:** No.

### Public Sector: Pay

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will take steps to ensure that all increases in senior executive pay in the public sector are below the rate of inflation. [271953]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have been asked to reply.

Government policy is that all public sector pay settlements should reflect the individual labour market position of each work force, particularly their recruitment and retention position; be consistent with achievement of the Bank of England's CPI inflation target of 2 per cent.; be affordable for Departments and; represent value for money for taxpayers.

Senior staff have an important role to play in showing leadership in exercising pay restraint. In March 2009, the Government announced that pay awards for senior public sector groups for 2009-10 would be limited to 1.5 per cent. This covers senior civil servants, judges, very senior managers in the NHS and chief executives of non-departmental public bodies.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Schools: Sports

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the results of the School Sport Survey for 2008-09 to be published. [282252]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The 2008-09 School Sport Survey is expected to be published in the early autumn.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Community Development

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which proposals in his Department's White Paper, Communities in control: real people, real power are not planned to be implemented. [282389]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The White Paper Communities in Control was published in July 2008. We currently do not have plans to take forward a number of minor proposals from the White Paper, namely on remote attendance and voting by councillors, payments for councillors on loss of office, and incentives to vote in local elections.

On June 1 2009 we published the "Communities Progress Report" which recorded the substantial progress achieved in the implementation of "Communities in Control". We will continue to review the implementation programme for the White Paper as it develops.

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in his Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [279514]

**Mr. Malik:** Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many days on average *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies has taken to pay invoices from suppliers in each month since November 2008. [278910]

**Mr. Malik:** The average time in days taken to pay suppliers by the Department in each month since November 2008 is as follows:

| | *(a) Department—CLG (including GOs)* | *(b) Agency* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Planning Inspectorate* | *Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre* | *Fire Service College* |
| November 2008 | 9 | 12 | 21 | 25 |
| December 2008 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 23 |
| January 2009 | 7 | 12 | 19 | 25 |
| February 2009 | 7 | 7 | 17 | 25 |
| March 2009 | 8 | 7 | 17 | 25 |
| April 2009 | 9 | 7 | 17 | 23 |
| May 2009 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 26 |

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1192W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies paid in interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282333]

**Mr. Malik:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions from offices in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280955]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for Communities and Local Government produced the following quantities of carbon dioxide emissions in 2006-7 and 2007-8:

*Communities and Local Government—Central Offices*

| | *Total carbon dioxide (tonnes)* | *Total carbon dioxide per FTE (tonnes)* |
|---|---|---|
| *2006-07* | 8,613 | 2.3 |
| *2007-08* | 6,998 | 2.5 |

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from road-based transport of administrative operations by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281007]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for Communities and Local Government generated the following quantities of carbon dioxide from road-based transport through administrative operations in 2006-07 and 2007-08:

*Tonnes*

| *Communities and local Government—central offices* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| Carbon dioxide | 252 | 211 |
| Carbon dioxide per FTE | 0.10 | 0.08 |

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from air travel by staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281008]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for Communities and Local Government generated the following quantities of carbon dioxide arising from air travel in 2006-07 and 2007-08:

*Tonnes*

| *Communities and local Government—central offices* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| Carbon dioxide | 233 | 236 |
| Carbon dioxide per FTE | 0.06 | 0.09 |

### Departmental Electricity

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the percentage of electricity used by his Department which was derived from renewable sources in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280957]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for Communities and Local Government derived the following amounts of electricity from renewable sources between 2006 and 2008:

*Percentage*

| *Communities and local Government—central offices* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| Renewable electricity | 92 | 91 |

The Department obtains its renewable energy through the office of Government commerce's green tariff energy contract.

### Departmental Energy

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the energy consumed per full-time equivalent member of staff in his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [280956]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for Communities and Local Government consumed the following quantities of energy per full-time equivalent member of staff in 2006-07 and 2007-08:

| *Communities and Local Government - Central Offices* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| Electricity per FTE (kWh) | 3,510 | 3,924 |
| Gas per FTE (kWh) | 2,364 | 2,289 |
| Total energy per FTE (kWh) | 5,874 | 6,213 |

### Departmental Waste

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281006]

**Mr. Malik:** Communities and Local Government generated the following quantities of waste in 2006-07 and 2007-08:

*Tonnes*

| *Communities and local Government—central offices* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| Total waste | 461 | 624 |
| Total waste per FTE | 0.12 | 0.23 |

### Departmental Water

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the water consumption on his Department's office estate in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [280954]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for Communities and Local Government used the following quantities of water in 2005-06 and 2006-07:

*Communities and Local Government—Central Offices*

| | *Total water consumption ($m^3$)* | *Water consumption per FTE ($m^3$)* |
|---|---|---|
| *2005-06* | 17,767 | 18,292 |
| *2006-07* | 5.4 | 4.9 |

### Eco-towns

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the responses received relating to the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) stage one financial viability study of the eco-towns programme have been passed to the PwC team; and what provision there is for earlier comments to be taken into account during stage two of the study. [282212]

**John Healey:** Alongside the final eco-towns planning policy statement, we will publish a Government response to the eco-towns consultation and a summary report of responses received, including those on the Financial Viability Study of the Eco-towns Programme.

Stage 2 of the work undertaken by our external advisers is a separate piece of work to look at generic delivery issues for eco-towns as proposals are pursued.

### Empty Housing: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of empty dwellings in Milton Keynes. [281682]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** In October 2008, Milton Keynes council reported there were 2,290 empty dwellings in their area.

### Fires: Smoking

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of trends in levels of smoking in domestic premises on trends in the number of domestic fires since 1988. [281705]

**Mr. Malik:** Research has been commissioned into factors that relate to the incidence of fires and deaths in dwellings. This research, undertaken in early spring 2009, found that statistically smoking is one of a number of factors associated with the fall in dwelling fire deaths. The research will published in the autumn.

### Housing: Finance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated by the Homes and Communities Agency to each local authority in each of the next two years. [282256]

**John Healey:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding each local authority has received from the Homes and Communities Agency since its establishment. [282257]

**John Healey:** Information on Homes and Communities Agency expenditure including by local authority area, will be published in the Agency's annual report and accounts later this year.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each local authority area registered with HomeBuy agents in each of the last three years. [282258]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The information is not collected centrally.

### Local Government: Termination of Employment

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates the monitoring group established under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 has met; whether minutes of the meetings of that group are published; and what the names of the members of that group are. [282198]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Compensation Regulations Monitoring Group met on four occasions, 21 December 2006; 1 March 2007; 19 April 2007; and 18 June 2007. The minutes of meetings were not published. The group is chaired by an official from Communities and Local Government and membership of the group is made up of representatives from the Local Government Employers Organisation, the Public Sector People's Managers Association, Unison, Unite the Union, GMB and the TUC.

### Mortgages: Government Assistance

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been refused assistance through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in (i) England and (ii) Milton Keynes in each month since the Scheme's inception. [281681]

**John Healey:** The mortgage rescue scheme has been operational across England since January 2009. As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme, headline data for January-April 2009, provided by local authorities operating the scheme and broken down by Government office region, are available on the Department's website. The figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Figures reported by local authorities from January to April 2009 are provided in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

In the current economic conditions, we have acted rapidly to put in place help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage: from free debt advice when problems start, to free support for cases that reach court. Advice is available to all households struggling with their mortgage, with targeted schemes for those in most need.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be assisted by the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* England in the next 12 months. [281954]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins) on 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 691W.

**Non-Domestic Rates: Cambridgeshire**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire which qualify for small business rate relief and do not claim it. [281721]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We have not made an estimate of the number of businesses in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire which qualify for small business rate relief but do not claim it.

**Police: Council Tax**

**Mr. Wilshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date his Department first informed Surrey Police Authority that it intended to use *(a)* a 2008-09 notional budget requirement and *(b)* a 2008-09 notional Band D council tax rate when deciding whether to cap Surrey Police Authority's precept. [281617]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth, North (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 210W.

**Regional Planning and Development: Finance**

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the role of *(a)* regional planning bodies and *(b)* regional development agencies is regarding decisions on regional funding allocations. [282407]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Each English region outside London provides regional funding advice to Ministers. The advice is based on work led by the regional development agency and regional assembly (or leaders' board, where such a body has replaced the assembly), supported by the Government office. However, final decisions on regional funding allocations are a matter for Ministers.

**Regional Planning and Development: Transport**

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirement there is for regional planning bodies to develop regional transport strategies. [282409]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** All regional spatial strategies are required to include a regional transport strategy. Details are set out in planning policy statement 11: Regional Spatial Strategies.

**Right to Buy Scheme**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date he expects to publish his Department's most recent figures on Right to Buy *(a)* receipts, *(b)* sales and *(c)* levels of discount. [282613]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The 2008-09 figures on right-to-buy sales, receipts and levels of discount will be published in a Statistical Release and in the "Live Tables" section of the CLG website in August 2009.

The 2007-08 right-to-buy figures were released in the "Live Tables" section of the CLG website in August 2008 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/socialhousingsales/livetables/

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**Carbon Sequestration: Algae**

**Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on the use of artificial measures to create algae bloom for the purposes of carbon capture; and if he will make a statement. [281113]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I have been asked to reply.

While the priorities for tackling climate change should continue to be overwhelmingly focussed on greenhouse gas emission reductions, and adaptation to unavoidable climate change, we should not rule out any climate change mitigation technologies at an early stage.

Ocean fertilisation involves adding nutrients, usually iron, nitrogen or phosphorus compounds, to nutrient depleted areas of the open ocean, with the aim of increasing phytoplankton production to absorb additional amounts of carbon dioxide and storing a proportion of the additional carbon production below the surface layers of the ocean when the plankton dies. Further research into both the effectiveness of this practice as a carbon sequestration measure and the impact that this practice may have on the marine environment would be required before this technique is considered for use as a climate change mitigation technology.

Any research into ocean fertilisation should follow the precautionary approach and comply with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the London Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter.

**Coal Health Compensation Scheme**

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the net present value of the Coal Health Compensation Scheme is; and if he will make a statement. [267760]

**Mr. Kidney:** There are two Coal Health Compensation Schemes. The Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Scheme (COPD) and the Vibration White Finger Scheme (VWF). The Department received over 760,000 claims in total.

The total amount paid in compensation to former miners and their families is £4 billion as at May 2009.

This breaks down to £2.3 billion paid in compensation under the COPD Scheme and £1.7 billion under VWF Scheme.

These values are actual compensation costs paid. The net present value is an accounting term which was not used to calculate the coal health compensation.

### Energy: Billing

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the effect on progress towards energy consumption reduction targets of the structure of energy (i) bills and (ii) tariffs. [280903]

**Mr. Kidney:** DECC considers analysis from a range of sources on factors affecting energy use, in order to inform policy development.

DECC is co-funding the Energy Demand Research Project, which is enabling the Government, energy suppliers and others to test through a variety of interventions how electricity and gas customers respond to better information about their consumption. Interventions include smart metering, real-time display devices, additional billing information, energy efficiency information and community engagement, along with combinations of these interventions.

Ofgem has recently held a public consultation on proposals for new obligations on suppliers relating to consumer information and engagement. We look forward to seeing Ofgem's further proposals in order to get the best results in terms of providing consumers with the information they need and can use.

Ofgem is also undertaking exploratory work on potential interactions between tariff structures and the incentives for energy efficiency.

### Energy: Prices

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage energy suppliers to simplify *(a)* tariffs and *(b)* bill format for domestic customers. [279071]

**Mr. Kidney:** DECC firmly believes that tariff structures and information to consumers should be accessible and easier to understand, enabling consumers to make the right decisions about energy use, tariffs and suppliers.

The regulator Ofgem has recently closed a public consultation on a number of proposals to improve the consumer energy supply markets, including proposals seeking to end confusion over tariffs, to improve information overall to consumers, and to give added protection to consumers when they switch supplier.

We support Ofgem's work and look forward to seeing results from that process, in order to get the best results for consumers.

### River Severn: Tidal Power

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how the review of tidal energy in the River Severn plans to take into account the views of people resident beside the river. [281349]

**Mr. Kidney:** The Severn tidal power feasibility study will include two public consultations. The first of these was held earlier this year when my Department sought views on the scope of the work, including a recommended shortlist of schemes for further analysis. Details of public engagement were set out in the answer to PQ 2660. The Government response to this consultation will be published shortly on the DECC website.

The second consultation will be held at the end of the feasibility study (probably in 2010) to seek views on whether Government should support a Severn tidal power scheme and if so on what terms. During this consultation, we plan to hold public meetings on both sides of the Severn estuary.

Prior to this second consultation, we hope to be working with the Sciencewise Expert Resource Centre to hold a small scale public meeting for invited members of the public (particularly members of the public near the Severn estuary). This work is intended to provide a representative view on Severn tidal power at this point, the priority issues for people and how best to communicate information in the consultation. (Sciencewise-ERC supports public dialogue through funding from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills).

We will also continue working with stakeholders (including representatives of local communities, such as local authorities and Members of Parliament) over the course of the feasibility study. There are a number of groups and events for stakeholders to participate in, as also described in the answer given to the hon. Member on 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 957W, if they wish to contribute to evidence gathering and analysis. Information on these events and regular updates on progress are available on our website at:

www.decc.gov.uk/severntidalpower

## HEALTH

### Chiropractic

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the implementation of the new National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on access to chiropractice. [281360]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guideline in question is for management of persistent non-specific lower back pain, for which a number of potential treatments are included in the recommendations. To aid implementation of this guideline, NICE has developed tools which offer advice on costings and commissioning, and these are available on their website alongside the main guideline at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG88

### Departmental Food

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281942]

**Phil Hope:** The figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

The proportion of domestically produced food procured by the Department has gone up from 58.5 per cent., in 2006-07 to 74 per cent., in 2007-08.

Quadrant Catering provides the staff restaurant and hospitality catering at the Department of Health sites in London and Eurest Services provides the same services to Department for Work and Pensions, which includes the Quarry House site in Leeds where some Department of Health employees are based. Both Quadrant Catering and Eurest Services are part of Compass Group UK and Ireland, one of the United Kingdom's largest contract caterers.

Specific information about British products used within the Department of Health and Department for Work and Pensions contracts is listed as follows. This information was made publicly available in late 2008 and there will be another report produced towards the end of 2009.

*Proportion of domestically produced food used (by value), i.e. indigenously produced, 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008*

| *Type* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Bakery—e.g. bread loaves and rolls (i.e. origin of ingredients used and not where baked) | 100 |
| *Dairy* | |
| Whole eggs (i.e. in shells) | 100 |
| Fresh milk (e.g. whole, semi-skimmed, skimmed) | 100 |
| Cheese | 85 |
| *Vegetables, salads and fruit* | |
| Ware potatoes—whole, unprepared | 95 |
| Processed potatoes—for prepared both whole and cut | 95 |
| Roots and onions—e.g. carrots, parsnips, onions, turnips and swedes | 95 |
| Brassicas—e.g. brussel sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower. | 64 |
| Legumes—e.g. beans (broad), beans (runner and dwarf), peas (green for market), peas (green for processing), peas (harvested dry) | 50 |
| Protected vegetables—e.g. tomatoes (round, vine, plum and cherry), tomatoes (cold), cucumbers, lettuce, celery, sweet peppers | 25 |
| Other vegetables—e.g. asparagus, celery, leeks, lettuce, watercress | 51[1] |
| Orchard fruit—e.g. dessert apples, culinary apples, pears, plums | 51[1] |
| Soft fruit—e.g. strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blackcurrants | 41[1] |
| *Meat and poultry* | |
| Poultry meat | 100 |
| Beef and veal | 85 |
| Mutton and lamb | 60 |
| Bacon | 0 |
| Pork | 85 |
| Fish | 40 |
| Overall percentage indigenous food | 74 |
| Overall percentage indigenous food by value if available | 75 |

[1] Overall

Two reports have been published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments, and supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS supply chain and HM Prison Service, covering the years from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, and the previous year. The latest report (November 2008) and the first one can be found at:

www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased. Although it is too early to demonstrate a trend, the latest report indicates that the amount of domestically produced food consumed by Government Departments in England is increasing. Data for the Department of Health were not included in these reports, but will be included in a third report that is expected to be published at the end of 2009.

## Departmental Lost Property

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281064]

**Phil Hope:** The following table lists the numbers of laptops reported lost or stolen from the Department and its agencies, Medicines Healthcare products and Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA).

*Number*

| | *Department of Health* | *MHRA* | *PASA* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 23 |
| 2005-06 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| 2006-07 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| 2007-08 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 2008-09 | 34 | 2 | 0 | 36 |

All the missing departmental and MHRA laptops were encrypted so we have minimised the risk of exposure of sensitive or personal data.

## Drugs: Patients

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of off-label drug treatments *(a)* provided and *(b)* denied to patients in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [282416]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We have made no such estimate.

## General Practitioners

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to primary care trusts on the application of premises criteria to the designation of general practice surgeries. [281359]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Directions issued in 2004 contain minimum standards which primary care trusts use when assessing the suitability of existing or proposed alternative premises. All primary medical care contractors have a contractual obligation to provide premises that are:

suitable for the delivery of those services; and

sufficient to meet the reasonable needs of the contractor's patients.

## Hospital Beds

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds in NHS organisations *(a)* there were and *(b)* were occupied in each ward type in each of the last five years. [281151]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The number of occupied and available bed days and day only beds is collected annually, from national health service providers. The following table shows the average daily number of available and occupied beds in wards open overnight by ward classification in England, 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Bed numbers have fallen because hospitals are dealing with patients more efficiently and more people are treated in primary care settings—experts all agree that this is the best way to deliver health care to patients.

Advances in medical technology and shorter stays for routine operations mean fewer beds are needed across the service—this is part of a long-term downward trend in the average length of stay in hospital.

*Average daily number of available and occupied beds in wards open overnight by ward classification, England, 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ward classification* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* |
| All ward types | 184,019 | 157,862 | 180,966 | 154,215 | 175,436 | 148,465 | 167,019 | 141,133 | 160,297 | 135,132 |
| Intensive care: neonates | 1,491 | 1,084 | 1,523 | 1,120 | 1,707 | 1,207 | 1,658 | 1,233 | 1,734 | 1,257 |
| Intensive care: paediatric | 239 | 164 | 263 | 201 | 321 | 236 | 335 | 246 | 306 | 217 |
| Intensive care: wholly or mainly adult | 3,283 | 2,635 | 3,417 | 2,763 | 3,454 | 2,736 | 3,622 | 2,918 | 3,667 | 2,953 |
| Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult | 386 | 302 | 436 | 338 | 427 | 320 | 395 | 309 | 411 | 316 |
| Younger physically disabled | 914 | 738 | 859 | 698 | 792 | 649 | 566 | 445 | 512 | 392 |
| Other general and acute: neonates and children | 9,191 | 5,639 | 8,995 | 5,477 | 8,584 | 5,338 | 8,461 | 5,276 | 8,314 | 5,315 |
| Other general and acute: elderly: normal care | 25,580 | 23,713 | 24,853 | 22,826 | 22,987 | 21,134 | 21,141 | 19,381 | 19,239 | 17,562 |
| Other general and acute: elderly: limited care | 1,874 | 1,612 | 1,788 | 1,497 | 1,705 | 1,466 | 1,756 | 1,515 | 1,462 | 1,233 |
| Other general and acute: other | 94,289 | 83,409 | 94,030 | 82,350 | 92,850 | 80,805 | 89,042 | 77,047 | 86,137 | 74,670 |
| Maternity | 9,309 | 5,896 | 9,081 | 5,727 | 8,881 | 5,774 | 8,643 | 5,567 | 8,441 | 5,397 |
| Mental illness: children: short stay | 460 | 333 | 505 | 360 | 492 | 328 | 462 | 312 | 505 | 355 |
| Mental illness: children: long stay | 58 | 42 | 20 | 14 | 17 | 15 | 35 | 25 | 18 | 15 |
| Mental illness: elderly: short stay | 7,528 | 6,304 | 7,475 | 6,202 | 7,343 | 6,016 | 6,945 | 5,726 | 6,577 | 5,320 |
| Mental illness: elderly: long stay | 4,574 | 3,773 | 4,043 | 3,409 | 3,591 | 2,909 | 2,832 | 2,346 | 2,417 | 2,007 |
| Mental illness: other ages: secure unit | 2,569 | 2,378 | 2,696 | 2,472 | 2,807 | 2,545 | 2,993 | 2,722 | 3,159 | 2,885 |
| Mental illness: other ages: short stay | 13,268 | 12,191 | 12,891 | 11,840 | 12,419 | 11,030 | 11,761 | 10,556 | 11,372 | 10,112 |
| Mental illness: other ages: long stay | 3,795 | 3,264 | 3,656 | 3,183 | 3,134 | 2,646 | 2,887 | 2,545 | 2,880 | 2,551 |

*Average daily number of available and occupied beds in wards open overnight by ward classification, England, 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ward classification* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* |
| Learning disabilities: children: short stay | 229 | 147 | 258 | 169 | 208 | 134 | 182 | 123 | 185 | 107 |
| Learning disabilities: children: long stay | 59 | 41 | 46 | 34 | 26 | 21 | 42 | 37 | 23 | 17 |
| Learning disabilities: other ages: secure unit | 514 | 470 | 503 | 484 | 526 | 502 | 516 | 489 | 554 | 508 |
| Learning disabilities: other ages: short stay | 1,210 | 955 | 1,222 | 962 | 1,188 | 938 | 1,098 | 867 | 1,053 | 774 |
| Learning disabilities: other ages: long stay | 3,199 | 2,771 | 2,387 | 2,087 | 1,978 | 1,696 | 1,649 | 1,448 | 1,332 | 1,169 |

*Source:*
Department of Health form KH03.

## Hospitals: Fires

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms there are for hospitals where fires have occurred to share information with other hospitals about those fires. [281447]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** National health service organisations, excluding NHS foundation trusts, have a mandatory duty to report fire incidents to which the fire and rescue service has been called. Reporting is through the Estates Facilities Management (EFM) online information system as set out in "Firecode: Health Technical Memorandum 05-01 Managing healthcare fire safety", which has been placed in the Library. Information from reported fire incidents is analysed to update the Department's suite of fire safety guidance—Firecode.

## Hospitals: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1595W, on hospitals: ICT, if he will direct the NHS to develop a national IT protocol for an interface between the x-ray services provided by Centricity and Medway. [281680]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** This is a matter for the local national health service bodies operating the systems concerned. However, the NHS national programme for IT utilises industry standard messaging protocols when developing interfaces between systems, and has procured picture archiving and communications (digital imaging) systems that conform to the Dicom international standard. Use of standards, as opposed to developing bespoke protocols, ensures local flexibility within the NHS.

## In Vitro Fertilisation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many in-vitro fertilisation treatments were funded by the national health service in each region in each of the last three years. [282255]

**Gillian Merron:** Surveys on the number of cycles of in vitro fertilisation offered by primary care trusts were published on the Department's website in June 2008 and June 2009 and can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Fertility/index.htm

The surveys relate to information gathered for the years 2006-07 to 2009-10. Copies have been placed in the Library.

## Muscular Dystrophy

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department is providing for research into Duchenne muscular dystrophy in 2009-10. [281772]

**Gillian Merron:** Both the Department and the Medical Research Council (MRC) support research into Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The MRC spent £2.1 million on such research in 2007-08. (Figures for more recent years are not yet available.) Projected Departmental expenditure in the current financial year is principally expenditure by National Institute for Health Research Biomedical Research centres and amounts to £450,000.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the number of centres of excellence for people with muscular dystrophy. [282178]

**Ann Keen:** We have made no assessment of the adequacy of the number of centres of excellence for those living with muscular dystrophy. It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure adequate health and social care services to meet the needs of their local population with muscular dystrophy.

## National Child Measurement Programme

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the results of the National Child Measurement Programme for 2008-09 to be published. [282254]

**Gillian Merron:** The NHS Information Centre will publish the results of the National Child Measurement Programme for 2008-09 in December 2009.

## NHS: Drugs

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* requirements and *(b)* regulations govern the promotion of medicines outside their licensed indication by (i) manufacturers, (ii) healthcare providers and (iii) other parties. [281583]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The promotion of medicines is regulated under the Medicines (Advertising) Regulations 1994, which implement Title VIII of Directive 2001/83/EC. These regulations prohibit the promotion of a medicine outside its licensed indication. The prohibition applies to industry, healthcare providers and other parties.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 927W, on the NHS: drugs, whether the review by strategic health authorities into collaboration in their areas to support effective decision-making has been concluded; and if he will make a statement. [281676]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We would expect that all strategic health authorities will have complied with the NHS chief executive's letter of 4 November 2008 asking them to review the arrangements in place in their local area and how collaboration could be encouraged to support better decision making. It is the responsibility of each organisation's board to ensure that this has been followed in their area.

Since then, the NHS constitution, launched in January 2009, says that patients have the right to expect local decisions on funding of other drugs and treatments to be made rationally, following a proper consideration of the evidence. This right is underpinned by:

defining guiding principles for processes supporting local decision making about medicines, published in January 2009;

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_093413

supporting rational local decision-making about medicines and treatments: A handbook of good practice guidance, published by the National Prescribing Centre in March 2009;

www.npc.co.uk/policy/local/constitution_handbook.htm

and

new statutory directions to primary care trusts (PCTs) and NHS trusts concerning decisions about drugs and other treatments 2009, which came into force on 1 April 2009

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_096067

As a result of the various measures we have put in place, we expect to see significant improvements in PCTs' decision-making processes, including increased transparency and consistency in the way these decisions are made. This will mean that patients and the public can be very clear about what the national health service is offering them by way of access to drugs and how those decisions about funding are taken.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in commissioning a national audit of demand for unfunded drugs, as referred to on page 6 of Improving access to medicines for NHS patients; what estimate he has made of the cost of meeting such demand; and if he will make a statement. [281585]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We are currently developing proposals for pilots—which should begin later this year—to audit the demand for unfunded drugs. Until we have carried out the pilots, we cannot estimate the cost of meeting the demand for unfunded drugs.

## NHS: Fires

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been spent by his Department on fire response training for NHS staff in each year since 2003; [281444]

(2) what fire response training is being provided for NHS staff in 2009-10. [281445]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** National health service organisations determine locally the content, method of delivery and frequency of their fire response training based on a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment. Information on the expenditure on fire response training in the NHS is not collected centrally.

## NHS: Gypsies

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to ensure that Gypsies and Travellers have the same access as others to the NHS. [282088]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has embarked on a programme of work to improve the health status of Gypsies and Travellers. The programme, including Pacesetters, is aiming for better awareness of community needs among national health service professionals; more effective health promotion among Gypsy and Traveller communities; and better access to both primary and secondary care for community members. This work is based on engagement and partnership working with both the NHS and Gypsy and Traveller communities.

## NHS: Management Consultants

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the national health service spent on external consultants in each of the last five years. [280339]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department does not collect the specific information requested centrally.

## NHS: Private Sector

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to inform primary care trusts of the Moving Beyond Sponsorship programme; and if he will make a statement; [281175]

(2) how many primary care trusts have participated in the Moving Beyond Sponsorship programme to date; and if he will make a statement. [281176]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In February 2008, the Department published best practice guidance for joint working between the national health service and the pharmaceutical industry, where this benefits patients, and within appropriate governance arrangements. To support NHS organisations and companies who wish to enter into such projects, the Department published in March 2008 an interactive toolkit to support joint working, entitled "Moving Beyond Sponsorship".

The Department has undertaken an awareness campaign to promote this to the NHS including attendance at 11 key conferences, including NHS Confederation—Primary Care Network, the NHS Alliance and NICE conferences. We will be working with strategic health authorities to raise awareness within their regions.

Joint working is taking place within a number of primary care trusts, however, the Department does not collect information on individual projects.

## Patient Choice Schemes

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department has incurred on services enabling patients to make hospital appointments in the last 12 months; and how many people worked on these services at the latest date for which figures are available. [281872]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Expenditure incurred by NHS Direct on services to support booking of first consultant outpatient appointments through the appointments line and the number of staff working in these areas is included in the following table.

| | *Expenditure (including staff and non-staff costs) April 2008 to March 2009 (£ million)* | *Staff (in whole- time equivalents) April 2008 to March 2009* | *Expenditure (including staff and non-staff costs) April to May 2009 (£ million)* | *Staff (in whole-time equivalents) April to May 2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| National Appointments Line (NHS Direct) | 7.033 | 213.21 | 1.242 | 240.92 |

*Source:*
NHS Direct

## Prescription Drugs

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the use of generic prescription drugs in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [281833]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The pharmaceutical price regulation scheme (2008) announced that subject to discussion with affected parties, the Department will introduce generic substitution in primary care. This is a complex issue with many interested stakeholders. Discussions with key stakeholders and interested parties are still underway and are expected to continue into early summer. Some representations have also been received in written format. Issues covered are broad but include implementation implications, for example, whether to exclude certain categories of medicines for clinical reasons. We want to make sure we engage with all stakeholders in the best way possible and are currently considering how best to do so.

## Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 230-1W, on prescriptions: fees and charges, how many respondents there were to Professor Ian Gilmore's web-based survey of prescription charges; how many written submissions of evidence were made to his review of prescription charges; how many oral evidence sessions the review held with stakeholder groups; and with how many GPs deliberative research on prescription charges has been conducted in the last financial year. [282056]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The written consultation received 39 submissions. The web-based survey aimed primarily at the public received 1,750 responses. Oral evidence sessions were held with 18 key stakeholders. A total of six workshops were held across England as part of the deliberative research with general practitioners (GPs), involving 30 GPs in total.

## Stem Cells: Research

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms his Department uses to ensure the efficient use of the funds allocated by his Department for the purpose of stem cell research. [281877]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. The MRC provides funding for research through a range of grants and personal awards to scientists in universities, medical schools and other research institutes. Applications are generally submitted by the scientific community in 'response mode' and the MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health. Funding is usually provided in open competition across all areas of science, though the MRC also issues targeted calls for proposals to stimulate research in strategic priority areas.

The MRC has also earmarked specific funding to build capacity through studentships and clinical training fellowships in the stem cell area.

All applications are peer reviewed by independent scientific experts in the UK and overseas. This peer review is the first part of a two-stage process, which helps the MRC's research boards and committees to decide which proposals to consider at their funding meetings. The research boards use similar criteria to

those of the referees and also identify any ethical issues or risks to human participants that need further attention.

The primary considerations in funding decisions are research excellence and importance to health; however, high quality proposals in areas of particular strategic importance may be given priority in competition for funds.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which *(a)* neurological research and *(b)* other projects his Department has allocated funding for the purpose of stem cell research. [281878]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research.

The MRC spent £25.6 million on research on stem cells in 2007-08. A list of the projects, which includes neurological projects, will be placed in both Libraries of the House.

### Strokes: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported cases of stroke there were in *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group in the London Borough of Bexley in each year since 1999. [281658]

**Ann Keen:** The following table provides a count of the finished admission episodes for stroke in Bexley Care Trust broken down by age group and sex for the years 1999-2000 to 2007-08.

*Count of finished admission episodes for a primary diagnosis of stroke* in Bexley PCT for the ten year period 1998-99 to 2007-08, given by age groups and gender. Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| Gender | Age groups | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 2002-03 | 2001-02 | 2000-01 | 1999-2000 | 1998-99 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 0-9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | 0 | * | 0 |
| | 10-19 | 0 | * | * | * | 0 | * | * | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 20-29 | * | * | 0 | * | * | * | 0 | 0 | 0 | * |
| | 30-39 | * | * | 6 | 6 | * | * | * | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| | 40-49 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 7 | * | * | * |
| | 50-59 | 27 | 20 | 20 | 11 | 16 | 18 | 16 | 10 | 20 | 11 |
| | 60-69 | 31 | 27 | 33 | 21 | 27 | 28 | 23 | 27 | 25 | 33 |
| | 70-79 | 51 | 55 | 45 | 47 | 50 | 49 | 45 | 34 | 54 | 47 |
| | 80-89 | 46 | 34 | 40 | 31 | 49 | 41 | 33 | 48 | 36 | 47 |
| | 90+ | 9 | 11 | * | * | 11 | 8 | 6 | * | * | 6 |
| | Total male | 177 | 159 | 157 | 131 | 169 | 162 | 138 | 127 | 146 | 185 |
| Female | 0-9 | * | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | * | * | 8 | 0 | * |
| | 10-19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * |
| | 20-29 | * | * | 0 | * | * | * | 0 | * | 0 | 0 |
| | 30-39 | 7 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 0 |
| | 40-49 | * | 9 | * | 8 | * | * | 6 | * | 6 | * |
| | 50-59 | 7 | 19 | 17 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 14 | * | 13 |
| | 60-69 | 17 | 20 | 27 | 24 | 18 | 18 | 28 | 18 | 33 | 25 |
| | 70-79 | 34 | 34 | 46 | 50 | 40 | 46 | 45 | 56 | 37 | 48 |
| | 80-89 | 81 | 54 | 61 | 77 | 75 | 53 | 62 | 56 | 58 | 66 |
| | 90+ | 24 | 16 | 17 | 29 | 26 | 25 | 13 | 20 | 15 | 13 |
| | Total females | 176 | 165 | 183 | 205 | 186 | 165 | 175 | 174 | 157 | 177 |
| Unknown | 80-89 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grand Total | 353 | 324 | 341 | 336 | 355 | 327 | 318 | 301 | 308 | 342 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships in each industry have been *(a)* advertised and *(b)* filled through the National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service. [274421]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* The National Apprenticeship Service online vacancy matching system has been developed to provide a high quality service to employers wishing to recruit apprentices, and to young people and adults considering an apprenticeship. This will help deliver the objective outlined in World-class Apprenticeships to expand and improve the quality of our apprenticeship programme.

At the end of April 2009, 4,157 vacancies were live on the system; a total of 8,051 vacancies have been posted since 12 January 2009 when the system went live. 93 vacancies have been filled through the service with 2,445 vacancies having current applications. The figures at this stage provide provisional data on apprenticeship applications. Feedback from a number of employers suggest that the recruitment process can take up to four months. In addition, the system was built to allow employers flexibility to integrate the advertising of apprenticeship opportunities on the system, with their own HR systems. In these instances candidates click through the Vacancy Matching System to the employers' own recruitment website. The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) is looking at how feedback can be obtained from these employers, mainly national companies, without putting undue bureaucracy on them.

### Council for Science and Technology

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what work the Council for Science and Technology *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake on energy and climate-related matters. [280371]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Council for Science and Technology (CST) produced a report in 2005 entitled 'An electricity supply strategy for the UK', and a report in 2007 entitled 'Strategic decision making for technology policy' which included energy technologies.

CST is currently undertaking a project titled 'A national infrastructure for the 21st century', which includes both the energy sector and the impact of climate change.

CST has no immediate plans to undertake any further projects on energy or climate-related matters.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what work the Council for Science and Technology is undertaking on future infrastructure policy. [280372]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Council for Science and Technology (CST) is currently undertaking a project titled 'A national infrastructure for the 21st Century'.

This project is taking a cross-cutting view of the water, energy, transport and communications infrastructures and will make high level recommendations to Government on interventions needed to ensure a national infrastructure that continues to support economic growth and social wellbeing.

The plan is to publish the report before the summer recess.

### Electric Vehicles

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the merits of designating electric vehicle charging points as regulated assets. [280368]

**Mr. Kidney:** I have been asked to reply.

Officials from the Departments for Energy and Climate Change and Transport will be considering this issue in the course of their joint working on electric vehicle infrastructure.

### Fuels: Prices

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of likely future trends in the pump prices of *(a)* unleaded petrol and *(b)* diesel. [280157]

**Mr. Kidney:** I have been asked to reply.

DECC does not forecast the pump prices of unleaded petrol or diesel. However, we do publish long-term oil price projections. Further details are available through the following links:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/environment/projections/recent/page26391.html

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file51365.pdf

Assumptions about a weighted average of road fuel prices, based DECC's oil price projections, are also used in our Updated Energy Projections. These assumptions are available through the following links:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/environment/projections/index.html

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file48514.pdf

### Overseas Students: USA

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to increase the number of US students studying in this country. [282228]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have no plans to bring forward specific proposals for increasing the number of students from the United States studying at higher education institutions in the United Kingdom. However, through the second phase of the Prime Minister's initiative for international education (PMI2), the Government are working with the education sector to increase the number of international students studying in this country. The United States is one of the priority countries for PMI2. The numbers of students from the United States choosing to study in the UK has increased from 8,735 in 2000-01 to 13,900 students in 2007-08, the latest date for which data are available, an increase of 59 per cent.

### Rover Group

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will request the inspectors investigating MG Rover to produce a progress report setting out *(a)* the estimated length of time required to complete the inquiry, *(b)* the estimated additional cost to complete the inquiry and *(c)* an explanation of the time taken to complete the inquiry. [281152]

**Ian Lucas:** The inspectors delivered their report on 11 June 2009. It will be for my noble Friend the Secretary of State to consider its findings and next steps.

The total cost of the Rover inquiry as at 31 May 2009 was £15,922,838 (broken down as £13,134,334 in costs, £451,542 in disbursements and £2,336,962 in VAT).

The Inquiry was complex but the cost has been very high. The Government will carefully consider the approach to any future exercises of this sort with a view to minimising expense to the taxpayer.

### Train to Gain Programme

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people *(a)* started and *(b)* completed a training course under the Train to Gain scheme in the last 12 months. [270529]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* Train to Gain is the Government's flagship service providing advice, support and funding to employers in England, of all sizes and in all sectors. It gives employers better access to a wider range of opportunities for improving the skills of their employees, and the productivity of their business.

Learner participation in Train to Gain is recorded in the Statistical First Release, which was issued on 26 March 2009 by the national Data Service. The Statistical First Release provides data by academic year, and shows that 346,200 people started a training course through Train to Gain between 1 August 2007 and 31 July 2008 and 386,200 started between 1 August 2008 and 31 January 2009.

187,300 individuals achieved a qualification between 1 August 2007 and 31 July 2008, and 152,000 achieved one between 1 August 2008 and 31 January 2009.

Further information is available in the Statistical First Release which can be found at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrmar09/summary.htm

### Vocational Training

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's press release of 17 December 2008, on funding for advice to people who have lost their jobs, over what time period the additional 40,000 pre-employment training places will be put in place; and how many additional training places have been established at the most recent date for which information is available. [272647]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Government's announcement covered a £100 million package of funding to support people who are under notice of redundancy, newly redundant or close to the labour market. The unit cost will vary according to the type and duration of training that individual does undertake. We have reassessed the capacity of the funding, and estimate that we will now support around 70,000 learners through this provision. This was announced as an important part of the wider package of support being made available to help those facing redundancy. The additional places are funded through the Learning and Skills Council and will help people improve their employability skills and find work.

The Learning and Skills Council has confirmed that contracts for delivery of provision were in place at the end of April and that provision is now available across the country.

This is a new programme and data on take up is not yet available.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many pre-employment training places have been funded by his Department in each month since June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [272648]

**Kevin Brennan:** It is vitally important that people seeking employment are able to get the help they need to overcome the skills barriers they face and improve their chances of finding sustainable work.

DIUS and DWP are working together to develop a comprehensive package of advice and training support, delivered through an integrated service supported by Job Centre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council.

That package includes advice and guidance available through nextstep and the Careers Advice Service, including a skills health check to ensure that training fits individuals' needs.

Places funded by the Adult Learner Responsive are available to learners claiming benefits. The LSC also funds training places for those with identified skills development needs. Figures for the number of places on specific programmes are broken down by academic year.

Pre-employment places were available on the Employability Skills Programme and Skills for Jobs as follows:

| | *Employability Skills Programme (ESP)* | *Skills for Jobs* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 5,844 | — |
| 2007-08 | 15,908 | 10,227 |
| 2008-09 | [1]15,129 | [2]7,402 |

[1] To end February 2009.
[2] To end March 2009 when this programme ended.

From April 2009, the LSC is funding two new programmes providing work-focused pre-employment training for people facing redundancy and the unemployed. Data on participation is not yet available.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of pre-employment training offered by Jobcentre Plus is funded by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Learning and Skills Council; and how much such funding was allocated in each quarter of the last three years. [272650]

**Kevin Brennan:** We are not able to give the full answer to this question because the cost of training can not be distinguished from the Department of Work and Pension's wider investment in employment provision.

Through the Learning and Skills Council, my Department funds specific pre-employment programmes aimed at helping people overcome skills barriers to employment. Those programmes are the Employability Skills Programme and Skills for Jobs and both are delivered in partnership with Jobcentre Plus.

Funding figures are available for full year spend and are as follows:

*Employability Skills Programme*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 23 |
| 2007-08 | 24.8 |
| 2008-09 | 36.5 |

Skills for Jobs were introduced in January 2008 and have spent £18.4 million from January 2008 and end March 2009.

Two new programmes worth £183 million have recently been introduced to support more people who are newly unemployed and unemployed for six months to train and gain sustainable employment. Data on participation is not yet available.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which 10 occupations have the largest number of unemployed workers undertaking retraining. [274055]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* The Department does not collect or hold this information centrally.

**Woolworths: Vocational Training**

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many former employees of Woolworths have undertaken government retraining courses; and how many of these have since been employed in the role for which they were retrained. [274056]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* Jobcentre Plus do not record outcomes for former employees of particular employers who have found work or taken part in Government funded training. The costs of this would be prohibitive.

DWP's rapid response service to support people facing redundancy; part of which offers focused training for those requiring training or certification; was provided to almost all Woolworths' staff before store closure, in conjunction with on site benefits advice and support on job search.

## JUSTICE

**Consultants: Ministry of Justice**

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget his Department has set for expenditure on external consultants in 2009-10. [281153]

**Mr. Straw:** The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) does not have a set overall budget for external consultancy. The Department recorded a full year spend for 2008-09 on consultancy of £54 million. This is a reduction from £56 million in 2007-09. Through a programme of efficiency savings the Department is aiming to further reduce its dependency on consultancy spend which will result in an anticipated further reduction in cost.

**Departmental Lost Property**

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many laptop computers belonging to *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies have been lost or stolen in the last five years. [281088]

**Mr. Straw:** Reported losses or thefts of laptops belonging to the Ministry of Justice, since it was established in May 2007, are as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 5 |
| 2008-09 | 3 |

Reported losses or thefts of laptops belonging to Ministry of Justice agencies, including Her Majesty's Courts Service, Tribunals Service National Offender Management Service (including Her Majesty's Prison Service and the National Probation Service), are as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 11 |
| 2008 | 19 |

Four of the laptops belonging to agencies reported lost were subsequently recovered. Another one of those lost went missing in delivery and had never been used.

Reported losses for the predecessor Department for Constitutional Affairs, including its agencies, are as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 27 |
| 2005 | 20 |
| 2006 | 27 |

**Disclosure of Information: Royal Family**

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons *(a)* Cabinet papers and *(b)* information in respect of the royal family are not included in his proposals to replace the 30-year rule with a 20-year rule for disclosure of official public documents. [280176]

**Mr. Straw:** Following the Dacre Review Report the Government will reduce the length of the 30-year rule to 20 years.

Having considered the Review's recommendations carefully, it will also bring forward additional protections for some limited categories of information. The Government's full response to the Report will be published by the summer.

**Driving Offences: Convictions**

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each age group in each local authority area have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of driving offences in each of the last five years. [280786]

**Claire Ward:** Proceedings at magistrates courts for motoring offences, by age group, in England and Wales, by police force area, for the years 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in table 1.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice, thus proceedings at magistrates courts data have been provided in lieu.

Findings of guilt at all courts for motoring offences, by age group, in England and Wales, by police force area, for the years 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in table 2.

It is not possible to further break down data to local authority area level as this data are not held by the Ministry of Justice, thus police force area data have been provided in lieu.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Table 1: Proceedings at magistrates courts for motoring offences, by age group, in England and Wales, by police force area 2003-07[1, 2]*

| | 2003 | | | 2004 | | | 2005 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Under 21* | *21 and over* | *Total* | *Under 21* | *21 and over* | *Total* | *Under 21* | *21 and over* | *Total* |
| Avon and Somerset | 12,849 | 77,009 | 89,858 | 12,280 | 75,233 | 87,513 | 10,601 | 64,307 | 74,908 |
| Bedfordshire | 5,119 | 24,840 | 29,959 | 3,643 | 18,500 | 22,143 | 3,750 | 25,271 | 29,021 |
| Cambridgeshire | 3,679 | 12,883 | 16,562 | 2,934 | 13,838 | 16,772 | 2,585 | 16,415 | 19,000 |
| Cheshire | 5,472 | 27,176 | 32,648 | 5,698 | 32,460 | 38,158 | 4,402 | 25,373 | 29,775 |
| Cleveland | 6,543 | 24,806 | 31,349 | 5,048 | 22,525 | 27,573 | 3,677 | 15,140 | 18,817 |
| Cumbria | 3,383 | 16,638 | 20,021 | 3,591 | 16,042 | 19,633 | 2,729 | 14,147 | 16,876 |
| Derbyshire | 4,172 | 29,321 | 33,493 | 4,222 | 28,869 | 33,091 | 3,113 | 24,294 | 27,407 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 9,778 | 56,585 | 66,363 | 9,145 | 50,057 | 59,202 | 7,247 | 43,773 | 51,020 |
| Dorset | 6,690 | 35,492 | 42,182 | 5,105 | 31,255 | 36,360 | 3,123 | 30,832 | 33,955 |
| Durham | 5,409 | 16,007 | 21,416 | 4,589 | 14,622 | 19,211 | 3,361 | 11,837 | 15,198 |
| Essex | 7,279 | 41,459 | 48,738 | 6,418 | 39,577 | 45,995 | 6,099 | 40,630 | 46,729 |
| Gloucestershire | 4,346 | 22,524 | 26,870 | 3,458 | 19,330 | 22,788 | 2,681 | 18,500 | 21,181 |
| Greater Manchester | 39,405 | 172,419 | 211,824 | 32,166 | 167,237 | 199,403 | 21,905 | 145,927 | 167,832 |
| Hampshire | 12,085 | 54,270 | 66,355 | 10,342 | 50,553 | 60,895 | 8,383 | 41,153 | 49,536 |
| Hertfordshire | 5,026 | 31,798 | 36,824 | 2,317 | 34,856 | 37,173 | 2,081 | 35,353 | 37,434 |
| Humberside | 6,653 | 27,476 | 34,129 | 6,741 | 29,076 | 35,817 | 5,279 | 26,083 | 31,362 |
| Kent | 9,904 | 42,651 | 52,555 | 11,732 | 51,853 | 63,585 | 9,163 | 43,175 | 52,338 |
| Lancashire | 14,985 | 70,984 | 85,969 | 11,777 | 55,388 | 67,165 | 12,667 | 56,488 | 69,155 |
| Leicestershire | 11,295 | 54,442 | 65,737 | 8,860 | 44,134 | 52,994 | 5,184 | 26,483 | 31,667 |
| Lincolnshire | 6,087 | 33,845 | 39,932 | 6,196 | 36,036 | 42,232 | 5,168 | 30,731 | 35,899 |
| London, city of | 940 | 13,002 | 13,942 | 649 | 17,433 | 18,082 | 572 | 13,112 | 13,684 |
| Merseyside | 14,662 | 46,580 | 61,242 | 14,961 | 48,615 | 63,576 | 10,848 | 38,073 | 48,921 |
| Metropolitan Police District | 36,698 | 164,851 | 201,549 | 35,343 | 182,289 | 217,632 | 30,952 | 163,297 | 194,249 |
| Norfolk | 5,032 | 22,989 | 28,021 | 4,023 | 19,797 | 23,820 | 3,605 | 18,988 | 22,593 |
| Northamptonshire | 4,286 | 23,461 | 27,747 | 5,367 | 27,946 | 33,313 | 3,614 | 22,800 | 26,414 |
| Northumbria | 12,168 | 50,995 | 63,163 | 9,464 | 50,421 | 59,885 | 8,961 | 50,026 | 58,987 |
| North Yorkshire | 4,169 | 15,674 | 19,843 | 3,879 | 17,617 | 21,496 | 3,283 | 14,535 | 17,818 |
| Nottinghamshire | 10,046 | 29,091 | 39,137 | 8,044 | 29,565 | 37,609 | 5,983 | 24,899 | 30,882 |
| South Yorkshire | 10,724 | 42,738 | 53,462 | 7,890 | 40,931 | 48,821 | 8,132 | 38,401 | 46,533 |
| Staffordshire | 7,283 | 29,739 | 37,022 | 7,067 | 35,722 | 42,789 | 6,465 | 34,364 | 40,829 |
| Suffolk | 6,134 | 28,336 | 34,470 | 5,743 | 31,179 | 36,922 | 4,541 | 26,393 | 30,934 |
| Surrey | 3,157 | 15,770 | 18,927 | 2,656 | 9,972 | 12,628 | 2,735 | 15,993 | 18,728 |
| Sussex | 4,925 | 27,881 | 32,806 | 3,260 | 13,540 | 16,800 | 3,402 | 24,233 | 27,635 |
| Thames Valley | 9,688 | 56,051 | 65,739 | 7,723 | 58,285 | 66,008 | 6,835 | 50,243 | 57,078 |
| Warwickshire | 3,250 | 16,564 | 19,814 | 3,048 | 18,661 | 21,709 | 2,272 | 15,518 | 17,790 |
| West Mercia | 5,776 | 32,814 | 38,590 | 2,957 | 26,318 | 29,275 | 3,282 | 32,483 | 35,765 |
| West Midlands | 32,199 | 150,203 | 182,402 | 26,980 | 155,270 | 182,250 | 20,646 | 137,374 | 158,020 |
| West Yorkshire | 21,176 | 94,169 | 115,345 | 25,238 | 137,639 | 162,897 | 16,598 | 115,030 | 131,628 |
| Wiltshire | 4,414 | 29,255 | 33,669 | 4,270 | 27,007 | 31,277 | 4,369 | 27,027 | 31,396 |
| Dyfed Powys | 3,412 | 19,343 | 22,755 | 2,315 | 15,657 | 17,972 | 2,899 | 15,853 | 18,752 |
| Gwent | 4,295 | 21,058 | 25,353 | 4,011 | 18,117 | 22,128 | 3,636 | 16,499 | 20,135 |
| North Wales | 5,535 | 29,787 | 35,322 | 5,129 | 29,443 | 34,572 | 3,653 | 22,687 | 26,340 |
| South Wales | 17,733 | 70,468 | 88,201 | 17,992 | 73,797 | 91,789 | 13,215 | 58,476 | 71,691 |
| England and Wales | 407,861 | 1,903,444 | 2,311,305 | 364,491 | 1,916,662 | 2,281,153 | 295,716 | 1,712,216 | 2,007,932 |

| | 2006 | | | 2007 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Under 21* | *21 and over* | *Total* | *Under 21* | *21 and over* | *Total* |
| Avon and Somerset | 9,075 | 54,124 | 63,199 | 6,873 | 44,036 | 50,909 |
| Bedfordshire | 3,215 | 23,365 | 26,580 | 2,220 | 18,779 | 20,999 |
| Cambridgeshire | 2,930 | 21,143 | 24,073 | 1,846 | 16,752 | 18,598 |
| Cheshire | 3,501 | 21,377 | 24,878 | 2,877 | 23,708 | 26,585 |
| Cleveland | 3,398 | 13,218 | 16,616 | 2,070 | 10,331 | 12,401 |
| Cumbria | 2,501 | 13,952 | 16,453 | 2,281 | 12,347 | 14,628 |

| Police force area | 2006 Under 21 | 2006 21 and over | 2006 Total | 2007 Under 21 | 2007 21 and over | 2007 Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Derbyshire | 2,421 | 18,412 | 20,833 | 2,170 | 19,105 | 21,275 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 7,132 | 40,036 | 47,168 | 5,104 | 29,753 | 34,857 |
| Dorset | 3,665 | 25,496 | 29,161 | 2,462 | 21,673 | 24,135 |
| Durham | 2,220 | 8,535 | 10,755 | 2,382 | 8,803 | 11,185 |
| Essex | 5,109 | 34,370 | 39,479 | 4,658 | 34,468 | 39,126 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,525 | 15,611 | 17,136 | 617 | 13,507 | 14,124 |
| Greater Manchester | 15,660 | 114,030 | 129,690 | 9,466 | 78,119 | 87,585 |
| Hampshire | 5,948 | 32,357 | 38,305 | 5,410 | 28,038 | 33,448 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,581 | 32,215 | 33,796 | 1,414 | 25,519 | 26,933 |
| Humberside | 4,572 | 20,463 | 25,035 | 2,978 | 15,285 | 18,263 |
| Kent | 6,886 | 35,033 | 41,919 | 4,250 | 29,124 | 33,374 |
| Lancashire | 9,512 | 53,869 | 63,381 | 7,617 | 45,249 | 52,866 |
| Leicestershire | 3,533 | 21,224 | 24,757 | 2,317 | 17,545 | 19,862 |
| Lincolnshire | 4,049 | 26,785 | 30,834 | 2,931 | 20,947 | 23,878 |
| London, city of | 421 | 11,064 | 11,485 | 441 | 14,773 | 15,214 |
| Merseyside | 5,281 | 28,147 | 33,428 | 3,848 | 29,442 | 33,290 |
| Metropolitan Police District | 25,192 | 148,252 | 173,444 | 20,468 | 133,648 | 154,116 |
| Norfolk | 3,442 | 19,654 | 23,096 | 3,041 | 14,994 | 18,035 |
| Northamptonshire | 2,772 | 20,497 | 23,269 | 1,436 | 11,856 | 13,292 |
| Northumbria | 7,647 | 43,546 | 51,193 | 5,716 | 37,636 | 43,352 |
| North Yorkshire | 2,557 | 11,825 | 14,382 | 2,315 | 12,942 | 15,257 |
| Nottinghamshire | 4,241 | 20,706 | 24,947 | 3,168 | 20,218 | 23,386 |
| South Yorkshire | 6,551 | 35,142 | 41,693 | 4,239 | 26,229 | 30,468 |
| Staffordshire | 4,980 | 28,332 | 33,312 | 3,647 | 25,392 | 29,039 |
| Suffolk | 3,221 | 22,646 | 25,867 | 2,393 | 17,855 | 20,248 |
| Surrey | 2,445 | 15,755 | 18,200 | 2,868 | 18,230 | 21,098 |
| Sussex | 3,433 | 23,671 | 27,104 | 2,979 | 23,852 | 26,831 |
| Thames Valley | 6,030 | 44,181 | 50,211 | 5,003 | 35,919 | 40,922 |
| Warwickshire | 1,875 | 13,165 | 15,040 | 1,577 | 10,370 | 11,947 |
| West Mercia | 2,538 | 32,096 | 34,634 | 3,149 | 26,753 | 29,902 |
| West Midlands | 15,281 | 109,199 | 124,480 | 11,579 | 86,076 | 97,655 |
| West Yorkshire | 11,508 | 91,545 | 103,053 | 9,733 | 67,620 | 77,353 |
| Wiltshire | 3,789 | 24,734 | 28,523 | 2,651 | 20,529 | 23,180 |
| Dyfed Powys | 2,259 | 13,620 | 15,879 | 1,898 | 11,438 | 13,336 |
| Gwent | 3,277 | 15,523 | 18,800 | 2,245 | 14,323 | 16,568 |
| North Wales | 3,546 | 24,300 | 27,846 | 2,559 | 17,932 | 20,491 |
| South Wales | 11,354 | 53,018 | 64,372 | 8,349 | 42,492 | 50,841 |
| England and Wales | 232,073 | 1,476,233 | 1,708,306 | 177,245 | 1,233,607 | 1,410,852 |

[1] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

OCJR E&A (Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit), Ministry of Justice

*Table 2: Findings of guilt at all courts for motoring offences, by age group, in England and Wales, by police force area 2003-07*[1, 2]

| Police force area | 2003 Under 21 | 2003 21 and over | 2003 Total | 2004 Under 21 | 2004 21 and over | 2004 Total | 2005 Under 21 | 2005 21 and over | 2005 Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 7,888 | 45,390 | 53,278 | 7,471 | 45,642 | 53,113 | 6,461 | 37,442 | 43,903 |
| Bedfordshire | 2,714 | 14,341 | 17,055 | 2,051 | 9,394 | 11,445 | 1,971 | 14,802 | 16,773 |
| Cambridgeshire | 2,642 | 9,434 | 12,076 | 2,232 | 10,136 | 12,368 | 2,041 | 12,402 | 14,443 |
| Cheshire | 4,515 | 22,880 | 27,395 | 4,606 | 26,977 | 31,583 | 3,539 | 21,598 | 25,137 |
| Cleveland | 4,144 | 16,386 | 20,530 | 3,844 | 16,523 | 20,367 | 3,005 | 11,667 | 14,672 |
| Cumbria | 2,569 | 12,437 | 15,006 | 2,775 | 12,132 | 14,907 | 2,101 | 10,739 | 12,840 |
| Derbyshire | 3,368 | 23,291 | 26,659 | 3,442 | 23,394 | 26,836 | 2,551 | 19,907 | 22,458 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 5,685 | 34,368 | 40,053 | 5,575 | 30,837 | 36,412 | 4,543 | 27,057 | 31,600 |
| Dorset | 3,264 | 17,536 | 20,800 | 2,446 | 15,534 | 17,980 | 2,546 | 16,046 | 18,592 |
| Durham | 4,225 | 11,766 | 15,991 | 3,618 | 10,465 | 14,083 | 2,555 | 7,976 | 10,531 |
| Essex | 5,661 | 31,848 | 37,509 | 5,035 | 31,188 | 36,223 | 4,822 | 32,614 | 37,436 |
| Gloucestershire | 2,193 | 12,273 | 14,466 | 2,174 | 11,984 | 14,158 | 1,567 | 10,438 | 12,005 |

*Table 2: Findings of guilt at all courts for motoring offences, by age group, in England and Wales, by police force area 2003-07[1, 2]*

| | 2003 | | | 2004 | | | 2005 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Under 21* | *21 and over* | *Total* | *Under 21* | *21 and over* | *Total* | *Under 21* | *21 and over* | *Total* |
| Greater Manchester | 22,975 | 101,454 | 124,429 | 19,174 | 97,430 | 116,604 | 14,069 | 87,439 | 101,508 |
| Hampshire | 8,729 | 40,453 | 49,182 | 7,616 | 37,342 | 44,958 | 6,228 | 31,243 | 37,471 |
| Hertfordshire | 3,575 | 22,099 | 25,674 | 1,777 | 24,831 | 26,608 | 1,560 | 25,453 | 27,013 |
| Humberside | 5,013 | 20,116 | 25,129 | 5,166 | 20,771 | 25,937 | 4,256 | 18,903 | 23,159 |
| Kent | 6,640 | 30,646 | 37,286 | 7,582 | 35,310 | 42,892 | 6,276 | 31,531 | 37,807 |
| Lancashire | 10,081 | 47,358 | 57,439 | 7,689 | 36,112 | 43,801 | 8,034 | 35,487 | 43,521 |
| Leicestershire | 7,747 | 37,739 | 45,486 | 6,670 | 30,362 | 37,032 | 4,042 | 18,985 | 23,027 |
| Lincolnshire | 4,293 | 24,873 | 29,166 | 4,497 | 26,940 | 31,437 | 3,553 | 22,302 | 25,855 |
| London, city of | 595 | 7,866 | 8,461 | 339 | 7,860 | 8,199 | 425 | 10,433 | 10,858 |
| Merseyside | 10,488 | 33,539 | 44,027 | 10,274 | 33,923 | 44,197 | 7,919 | 27,663 | 35,582 |
| Metropolitan Police District | 26,932 | 115,925 | 142,857 | 27,416 | 136,729 | 164,145 | 24,167 | 123,456 | 147,623 |
| Norfolk | 3,445 | 16,970 | 20,415 | 2,958 | 15,213 | 18,171 | 2,571 | 14,849 | 17,420 |
| Northamptonshire | 2,776 | 17,100 | 19,876 | 3,706 | 20,166 | 23,872 | 2,313 | 16,472 | 18,785 |
| Northumbria | 8,769 | 36,116 | 44,885 | 7,080 | 37,449 | 44,529 | 6,949 | 37,206 | 44,155 |
| North Yorkshire | 2,576 | 9,279 | 11,855 | 2,420 | 10,627 | 13,047 | 2,239 | 9,682 | 11,921 |
| Nottinghamshire | 8,145 | 23,892 | 32,037 | 6,688 | 24,591 | 31,279 | 4,975 | 21,331 | 26,306 |
| South Yorkshire | 7,443 | 29,702 | 37,145 | 5,866 | 30,005 | 35,871 | 6,022 | 28,768 | 34,790 |
| Staffordshire | 5,183 | 20,841 | 26,024 | 5,266 | 24,130 | 29,396 | 4,721 | 23,163 | 27,884 |
| Suffolk | 3,319 | 14,348 | 17,667 | 3,278 | 15,663 | 18,941 | 2,679 | 14,717 | 17,396 |
| Surrey | 2,428 | 11,558 | 13,986 | 2,055 | 7,213 | 9,268 | 2,180 | 12,591 | 14,771 |
| Sussex | 3,529 | 18,379 | 21,908 | 2,537 | 8,742 | 11,279 | 2,673 | 18,015 | 20,688 |
| Thames Valley | 6,665 | 40,562 | 47,227 | 5,457 | 44,217 | 49,674 | 5,033 | 38,350 | 43,383 |
| Warwickshire | 2,333 | 12,600 | 14,933 | 2,514 | 14,849 | 17,363 | 1,892 | 12,686 | 14,578 |
| West Mercia | 4,226 | 23,444 | 27,670 | 2,340 | 18,115 | 20,455 | 2,566 | 24,526 | 27,092 |
| West Midlands | 20,651 | 93,245 | 113,896 | 18,301 | 101,760 | 120,061 | 14,035 | 91,532 | 105,567 |
| West Yorkshire | 13,404 | 57,970 | 71,374 | 15,457 | 80,990 | 96,447 | 10,434 | 67,913 | 78,347 |
| Wiltshire | 2,426 | 16,720 | 19,146 | 2,435 | 15,709 | 18,144 | 2,297 | 15,127 | 17,424 |
| Dyfed Powys | 2,283 | 12,701 | 14,984 | 1,612 | 10,504 | 12,116 | 1,970 | 10,580 | 12,550 |
| Gwent | 3,569 | 15,876 | 19,445 | 3,393 | 13,413 | 16,806 | 3,000 | 12,535 | 15,535 |
| North Wales | 3,594 | 20,356 | 23,950 | 3,687 | 21,450 | 25,137 | 2,743 | 17,445 | 20,188 |
| South Wales | 10,422 | 40,777 | 51,199 | 10,324 | 42,009 | 52,333 | 7,568 | 33,773 | 41,341 |
| England and Wales | 273,122 | 1,266,454 | 1,539,576 | 250,843 | 1,288,631 | 1,539,474 | 207,091 | 1,176,844 | 1,383,935 |

| | 2006 | | | 2007 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Under 21* | *21 and over* | *Total* | *Under 21* | *21 and over* | *Total* |
| Avon and Somerset | 5,941 | 33,549 | 39,490 | 4,545 | 27,524 | 32,069 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,858 | 14,563 | 16,421 | 1,458 | 13,143 | 14,601 |
| Cambridgeshire | 2,219 | 15,868 | 18,087 | 1,569 | 13,267 | 14,836 |
| Cheshire | 2,877 | 17,780 | 20,657 | 2,378 | 19,859 | 22,237 |
| Cleveland | 2,880 | 10,195 | 13,075 | 1,765 | 7,924 | 9,689 |
| Cumbria | 1,949 | 10,683 | 12,632 | 1,857 | 9,980 | 11,837 |
| Derbyshire | 2,085 | 15,434 | 17,519 | 1,845 | 16,646 | 18,491 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 4,553 | 23,943 | 28,496 | 3,618 | 20,582 | 24,200 |
| Dorset | 1,819 | 13,839 | 15,658 | 1,557 | 11,278 | 12,835 |
| Durham | 1,733 | 6,086 | 7,819 | 1,942 | 6,783 | 8,725 |
| Essex | 4,291 | 28,308 | 32,599 | 3,941 | 28,866 | 32,807 |
| Gloucestershire | 960 | 10,046 | 11,006 | 418 | 9,578 | 9,996 |
| Greater Manchester | 10,929 | 74,539 | 85,468 | 7,349 | 56,232 | 63,581 |
| Hampshire | 4,720 | 25,462 | 30,182 | 4,646 | 23,508 | 28,154 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,261 | 23,334 | 24,595 | 1,125 | 18,652 | 19,777 |
| Humberside | 3,779 | 15,893 | 19,672 | 2,500 | 11,638 | 14,138 |
| Kent | 5,336 | 27,635 | 32,971 | 3,642 | 24,370 | 28,012 |
| Lancashire | 6,041 | 33,819 | 39,860 | 5,020 | 30,540 | 35,560 |
| Leicestershire | 2,787 | 15,940 | 18,727 | 1,942 | 12,893 | 14,835 |
| Lincolnshire | 2,983 | 20,395 | 23,378 | 2,164 | 16,357 | 18,521 |
| London, city of | 271 | 7,038 | 7,309 | 287 | 8,656 | 8,943 |
| Merseyside | 4,113 | 22,491 | 26,604 | 3,126 | 23,286 | 26,412 |
| Metropolitan Police District | 20,604 | 118,598 | 139,202 | 17,081 | 110,879 | 127,960 |
| Norfolk | 2,519 | 15,344 | 17,863 | 2,191 | 11,584 | 13,775 |

| Police force area | 2006 Under 21 | 2006 21 and over | 2006 Total | 2007 Under 21 | 2007 21 and over | 2007 Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northamptonshire | 1,763 | 14,669 | 16,432 | 1,317 | 11,217 | 12,534 |
| Northumbria | 6,142 | 33,680 | 39,822 | 4,679 | 29,554 | 34,233 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,855 | 8,268 | 10,123 | 1,755 | 9,591 | 11,346 |
| Nottinghamshire | 3,588 | 17,701 | 21,289 | 2,677 | 17,441 | 20,118 |
| South Yorkshire | 5,000 | 27,121 | 32,121 | 3,437 | 21,470 | 24,907 |
| Staffordshire | 3,774 | 20,064 | 23,838 | 2,989 | 18,284 | 21,273 |
| Suffolk | 2,137 | 13,184 | 15,321 | 1,787 | 11,884 | 13,671 |
| Surrey | 1,950 | 12,919 | 14,869 | 2,286 | 14,703 | 16,989 |
| Sussex | 2,676 | 18,134 | 20,810 | 2,451 | 18,738 | 21,189 |
| Thames Valley | 4,591 | 34,812 | 39,403 | 3,990 | 28,653 | 32,643 |
| Warwickshire | 1,590 | 10,747 | 12,337 | 1,347 | 8,516 | 9,863 |
| West Mercia | 2,087 | 24,689 | 26,776 | 2,515 | 20,350 | 22,865 |
| West Midlands | 10,516 | 72,523 | 83,039 | 7,920 | 57,784 | 65,704 |
| West Yorkshire | 7,337 | 55,512 | 62,849 | 6,323 | 42,448 | 48,771 |
| Wiltshire | 2,102 | 14,228 | 16,330 | 1,533 | 12,550 | 14,083 |
| Dyfed Powys | 1,545 | 9,066 | 10,611 | 1,416 | 7,833 | 9,249 |
| Gwent | 2,666 | 12,111 | 14,777 | 1,914 | 10,553 | 12,467 |
| North Wales | 2,693 | 18,937 | 21,630 | 1,904 | 13,950 | 15,854 |
| South Wales | 6,472 | 30,380 | 36,852 | 4,915 | 25,526 | 30,441 |
| England and Wales | 168,992 | 1,049,527 | 1,218,519 | 135,121 | 915,070 | 1,050,191 |

[1] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

OCJR E&A (Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit), Ministry of Justice

### Furniture: Ministry of Justice

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on furniture in 2008-09. [279264]

**Mr. Straw:** The expenditure on furniture by the Ministry in the financial year 2008-09 is listed in the following table.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Ministry of Justice HQ | 6,098,821 |
| HM Courts Service | 1,508,010 |
| Tribunals Service | 91,657 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 14,000 |
| National Offenders Management Service | 445,430 |
| Total | 8,157,918 |

The figure for the National Offender Management Service does not include the 42 local probation boards and trusts. Information on the costs of furniture is held locally and can be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Furniture is typically used for a period of 20 years within the Department. Major acquisitions usually occur only where a new building is taken on following the expiry of building leases. The majority of headquarters expenditure relates to the move to a new headquarters building as part of a major rationalisation of the Ministry's London estate.

The reduction in the number of buildings occupied in central London, increased capacity of the building and move to flexible workspace in 102 Petty France will in future save an estimated £10 million a year. This move will enable more effective working and the reduction of the size and cost of the London estate.

### National Offender Management Service: Manpower

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many National Offender Management Service employees are viewed as surplus. [280831]

**Mr. Straw:** As at 15 June 2009 there were 201 individual employees registered as surplus in the National Offender Management Service.

### Offences against Children: Convictions

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of sexual offences against children in each year since 1997. [280782]

**Claire Ward:** The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for sexual offences against children, 1997 to 2007 is shown in tables 1 and 2.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 significantly modernised and strengthened the laws on sexual offences in England and Wales to provide extra protection to children .from sexual exploitation. This makes direct comparisons with previous legislation very difficult. Many new offences created by the Act will not have a direct equivalent under the old legislation. Table 1 covers offences under the Sexual Offences Act 1956, with table 2 covering offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty

is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Table 1: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of sexual offences against persons aged under 18 years, England and Wales 1997 to 2003, under the Sexual Offences Act 1956*[1, 2, 3, 4]

| | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | | 2000 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence class* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Buggery with a person aged under 16 | 142 | 91 | 143 | 80 | 163 | 70 | 133 | 64 |
| Indecent assault on a male person under 16 | 373 | 363 | 460 | 342 | 432 | 337 | 351 | 299 |
| Gross indecency by a male with a male aged under 18 | 33 | 19 | 23 | 18 | 19 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Rape, attempted rape of a male or female aged under 16 | 716 | 279 | 810 | 291 | 846 | 335 | 788 | 264 |
| Indecent assault on a female under 16 | 1,639 | 1,627 | 1,805 | 1,505 | 1,818 | 1,491 | 1,355 | 1,317 |
| Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 13 | 40 | 44 | 40 | 55 | 32 | 52 | 40 | 53 |
| Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 16 | 153 | 199 | 171 | 225 | 169 | 189 | 167 | 214 |
| Incest offences with persons under 16 | 19 | 23 | 15 | 29 | 17 | 23 | 16 | 28 |
| Procuration of persons aged under 18 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 4 | — | 4 |
| Gross indecency with children aged under 14 | 172 | 167 | 325 | 214 | 330 | 217 | 283 | 193 |
| Total | 3,296 | 2,820 | 3,798 | 2,768 | 3,828 | 2,728 | 3,344 | 2,447 |

| | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence class* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Buggery with a person aged under 16 | 120 | 74 | 80 | 60 | 59 | 47 |
| Indecent assault on a male person under 16 | 391 | 271 | 384 | 293 | 419 | 264 |
| Gross indecency by a male with a male aged under 18 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Rape, attempted rape of a male or female aged under 16 | 1,112 | 241 | 1,288 | 292 | 1,265 | 326 |
| Indecent assault on a female under 16 | 1,792 | 1,292 | 1,952 | 1,332 | 1,956 | 1,206 |
| Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 13 | 53 | 54 | 43 | 47 | 71 | 49 |
| Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 16 | 178 | 214 | 192 | 228 | 185 | 248 |
| Incest offences with persons under 16 | 20 | 34 | 17 | 39 | 8 | 29 |
| Procuration of persons aged under 18 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Gross indecency with children aged under 14 | 410 | 249 | 456 | 261 | 429 | 281 |
| Total | 4,085 | 2,433 | 4,418 | 2,562 | 4,393 | 2,450 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The numbers found guilty may exceed those proceeded against in table 1, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year to the defendant being found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

[4] Covers offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 which identify the victim as a minor at the time the offences was committed.

*Source:*

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

*Table 2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of sexual offences against persons aged under 18 years, England and Wales 2004 to 2007, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003*[1, 2, 3, 4]

| | 2004[4] | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence class* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Sexual assault of a male child aged under 13 | 27 | 9 | 119 | 65 | 118 | 63 | 130 | 77 |
| Rape, attempted rape of a male or female aged under 13 or under 16 | 1,208 | 358 | 1,200 | 394 | 1,100 | 416 | 1,020 | 434 |

*Table 2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of sexual offences against persons aged under 18 years, England and Wales 2004 to 2007, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003*[1, 2, 3, 4]

| | 2004[5] | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence class* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Sexual assault of a female child aged under 13 | 162 | 41 | 495 | 212 | 531 | 315 | 582 | 342 |
| Sexual activity with a male or female child aged under 13 | 97 | 30 | 304 | 123 | 293 | 181 | 337 | 206 |
| Sexual activity with a male or female aged under 16 | 182 | 74 | 676 | 456 | 697 | 644 | 692 | 620 |
| Familial sexual offences of a male or female child aged under 13 | 31 | 10 | 99 | 54 | 108 | 74 | 128 | 91 |
| Abuse of children aged under 18 through prostitution and pornography | 18 | 2 | 35 | 8 | 29 | 17 | 43 | 27 |
| Abuse of trust sexual offences against a child aged under 18 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 14 | 20 | 18 | 17 | 18 |
| Meeting a male or female aged under 16 following sexual grooming | 9 | 3 | 28 | 25 | 43 | 36 | 41 | 51 |
| Total | 1,739 | 530 | 2,968 | 1,351 | 2,939 | 1,764 | 2,990 | 1,866 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The numbers found guilty may exceed those proceeded against in table 1, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year to the defendant being found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.
[4] Covers offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 which identify the victim as a minor at the time the offences was committed.
[5] Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.
*Source:*
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each region of England and Wales were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted on charges relating to having sexual intercourse with an underage person in each year since 1997. [280783]

**Claire Ward:** The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to having sexual intercourse with an underage person, by region, 1997 to 2007 is shown in tables 1 and 2.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 significantly modernised and strengthened the laws on sexual offences in England and Wales to provide extra protection to children from sexual exploitation. This makes direct comparisons with previous legislation very difficult. Many new offences created by the Act will not have a direct equivalent under the old legislation. Table 1 covers offences under the Sexual Offences Act 1956, with table 2 covering offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to having sexual intercourse with an underage person, by region, England and Wales 1997 to 2007, under the Sexual Offences Act 1956*[1, 2, 3]

| | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | | 2000 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| North East | 62 | 41 | 88 | 50 | 88 | 43 | 84 | 30 |
| North West | 132 | 85 | 149 | 82 | 136 | 98 | 135 | 82 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 134 | 50 | 143 | 74 | 168 | 72 | 149 | 80 |
| East Midlands | 100 | 58 | 103 | 51 | 113 | 61 | 105 | 43 |
| West Midlands | 92 | 72 | 103 | 65 | 94 | 55 | 96 | 53 |
| East of England | 83 | 43 | 97 | 51 | 123 | 54 | 88 | 43 |
| London | 68 | 43 | 105 | 57 | 96 | 46 | 136 | 45 |
| South East | 108 | 70 | 123 | 84 | 119 | 72 | 117 | 79 |
| South West | 109 | 48 | 97 | 47 | 98 | 44 | 89 | 57 |

*Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to having sexual intercourse with an underage person, by region, England and Wales 1997 to 2003, under the Sexual Offences Act 1956* [1, 2, 3]

| | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | | 2000 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Wales | 84 | 46 | 93 | 35 | 106 | 50 | 80 | 49 |
| England and Wales | 972 | 556 | 1,101 | 596 | 1,141 | 595 | 1,079 | 561 |

| | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| North East | 80 | 46 | 78 | 42 | 81 | 48 |
| North West | 205 | 85 | 217 | 91 | 206 | 88 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 172 | 58 | 164 | 68 | 150 | 63 |
| East Midlands | 113 | 55 | 106 | 39 | 108 | 31 |
| West Midlands | 154 | 60 | 184 | 64 | 166 | 79 |
| East of England | 100 | 47 | 101 | 48 | 95 | 49 |
| London | 172 | 47 | 235 | 56 | 285 | 73 |
| South East | 154 | 64 | 189 | 87 | 172 | 74 |
| South West | 115 | 39 | 109 | 40 | 104 | 62 |
| Wales | 112 | 45 | 127 | 48 | 99 | 40 |
| England and Wales | 1,377 | 546 | 1,510 | 583 | 1,466 | 627 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] 1997 to 2003 figures include the following offences under the Sexual Offences Act 1956:
—Rape of a person under 16
—Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13
—Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16
—Buggery with a person under 16
*Source:*
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

*Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to having sexual intercourse with an underage person, by region, England and Wales 2004-07, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003*[1, 2, 3]

| | 2004[4] | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| North East | 50 | 20 | 79 | 28 | 79 | 46 | 71 | 49 |
| North West | 176 | 49 | 199 | 110 | 199 | 93 | 204 | 114 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 123 | 56 | 155 | 86 | 130 | 90 | 121 | 95 |
| East Midlands | 109 | 31 | 147 | 61 | 118 | 65 | 118 | 77 |
| West Midlands | 137 | 33 | 158 | 76 | 158 | 105 | 148 | 90 |
| East of England | 80 | 21 | 122 | 55 | 97 | 79 | 80 | 59 |
| London | 193 | 38 | 207 | 36 | 197 | 55 | 164 | 58 |
| South East | 115 | 40 | 162 | 81 | 138 | 97 | 150 | 102 |
| South West | 75 | 30 | 106 | 50 | 98 | 81 | 98 | 69 |
| Wales | 112 | 34 | 84 | 37 | 80 | 49 | 88 | 34 |
| England and Wales | 1,170 | 352 | 1,419 | 620 | 1,294 | 760 | 1,242 | 747 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] 2004 to 2007 figures include the following offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003:
—Rape of a child under 13
—Rape of a person under 16
—Sexual Activity with a child (where penetration is involved)
[4] Act came into force on 1 May 2004.
*Source:*
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were prosecuted for sexual offences against those under the age of 18 years in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and how many such prosecutions resulted in a conviction. [281879]

**Claire Ward:** The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for sexual offences against children, 2006 and 2007 can be viewed in table.

Data provided are for those statutes where the age of the victim is specified. These data are on the principal

offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of sexual offences against persons aged under 18 years, England and Wales 2006 and 2007*[1, 2, 3, 4]

| *Offence class* | *2006* | | *2007* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Sexual assault of a male child aged under 13 | 118 | 63 | 130 | 77 |
| Rape, attempted rape of a male or female aged under 13 or under 16 | 1,100 | 416 | 1,020 | 434 |
| Sexual assault of a female child aged under 13 | 531 | 315 | 582 | 342 |
| Sexual activity with a male or female child aged under 13 | 293 | 181 | 337 | 206 |
| Sexual activity with a male or female aged under 16 | 697 | 644 | 692 | 620 |
| Familial sexual offences of a male or female child aged under 13 | 108 | 74 | 128 | 91 |
| Abuse of children aged under 18 through prostitution and pornography | 29 | 17 | 43 | 27 |
| Abuse of trust sexual offences against a child aged under 18 | 20 | 18 | 17 | 18 |
| Meeting a male or female aged under 16 following sexual grooming | 43 | 36 | 41 | 51 |
| Total | 2,939 | 1,764 | 2,990 | 1,866 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The numbers found guilty may exceed those proceeded against in table 1, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year to the defendant being found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

[4] Covers offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 which identify the victim as a minor at the time the offences was committed.

*Source:*

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

## Prime Ministers

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consult on the merits of direct elections to the Office of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom as part of his programme for constitutional renewal; and if he will make a statement. [281249]

**Mr. Straw:** No, Sir.

## Prisoners' Discharge Grants

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who had been in custody for less than 14 days received discharge grants upon release in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how many days the offender had spent in custody in each case. [281956]

**Maria Eagle:** Prison Service Order (PSO) 6400 (Discharge) stipulates that, to be eligible for a discharge grant, prisoners must have been given a custodial sentence of more than 14 days.

Following the introduction of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, prisoners serving sentences of one year or less were to be released at the halfway point of their sentence. The National Offender Management Service has recently become aware that, in the light of this, PSO 6400 was not sufficiently clear and its original intention has been open to possible misinterpretation. Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 21/2009, issued on 9 June 2009, clarifies that a prisoner must serve a sentence of which the custodial period is more than 14 days to be eligible for a discharge grant.

Information on the number of prisoners who may have been paid a discharge grant in error, having spent 14 days or less in custody, is not held centrally and could be obtained only by examining the individual records of discharged prisoners at disproportionate cost.

## Prisons: Barking and Dagenham

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his estimate is of the cost of constructing a new prison at Beam Park West; [275825]

(2) whether he has made arrangements to deal with the eventuality that a private contractor is unable to provide a prison on the Beam Park West site. [275962]

**Mr. Straw:** The exact cost of constructing the proposed prison at Beam Park West has yet to be determined. However, it is estimated that the capital cost of constructing five 1,500 place prisons at 2008-09 prices is around £1.2 billion, excluding VAT and site purchase costs.

We will consider the options available to us in the event we are unable to find a suitable contractor to build the proposed prison.

## Probation Officers: Manpower

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many vacant probation officer positions there are in each region. [280832]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table shows the number of vacant Probation Officer positions in each of the regions:

| | Vacant probation officer positions[1,2,3,4] |
|---|---|
| North East | 3.0 |
| North West | 11.0 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 11.0 |
| East Midlands | 14.20 |
| West Midlands | 10.80 |
| East of England | 6.40 |
| London | 2.0 |
| South East | 15.81 |
| South West | 24.43 |
| Wales | 13.60 |

[1] Figures shown as FTE as at 30 June 2007 and can be found in Issue 13 of the Workforce Information Report.
[2] Includes: Senior Probation Officers, Probation Officers, Practice Development Assessors and Senior Practitioners.
[3] Vacancies are defined as "active vacancies", which includes any post that is being actively recruited into.
[4] Due to the HR System in use, Hampshire Probation Area (South East Region), Greater Manchester Probation Area (North West Region) and West Midlands Probation Area (West Midlands Region) have been unable to provide any vacancy figures and are excluded from this return.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* qualified probation officers and *(b)* Probation Service officers have been employed by the Probation Service in each quarter since the start of 2003. [280841]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table shows the number of probation officers and probation service officers in post in each quarter since the start of 2003.

| | Probation officers[1] | Probation service officers[2] |
|---|---|---|
| *2003-04* | | |
| Q1 | 5831.10 | 4752.40 |
| Q2 | 5937.80 | 5204.30 |
| Q3 | 6271.50 | 5386.86 |
| Q4 | 6285.4 | 5416.80 |
| *2004-05* | | |
| Q1 | 6257.32 | 5467.77 |
| Q2 | 6376.48 | 5511.66 |
| Q3 | 6584.94 | 5623.86 |
| Q4 | 6566.63 | 5849.99 |
| *2005-06* | | |
| Q1 | 6468.44 | 5968.35 |
| Q2 | 6529.41 | 6089.00 |
| Q3 | 6894.36 | 6235.17 |
| Q4 | 6515.35 | 6337.64 |
| *2006-07* | | |
| Q1 | 6855.26 | 6645.30 |
| Q2 | 6878.67 | 6552.00 |
| Q3 | 7209.55 | 6502.71 |
| Q4 | 7149.26 | 6506.78 |
| *2007-08* | | |
| Q1 | 7007.75 | 6430.58 |
| Q2[3] | 6976.30 | 6304.56 |
| Q3[3] | 7119.54 | 6221.76 |

[1] Includes: senior probation officers, senior practitioners, probation officers and practice development assessors.
[2] Includes: probation services officers and treatment managers.
[3] The information provided has yet to be published and may therefore be subject to minor amendment upon publication.
*Note:*
Figures are shown as full-time equivalents.

Figures for Q4 2007-08 and 2008-09 are currently unavailable.

## Probation: Vacancies

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unfilled posts there are in each region in the Probation Service. [280836]

**Mr. Straw:** The following table shows the number of vacant post in each of the regions.

| | Active vacancies[1, 2, 3] |
|---|---|
| North East | 31.84 |
| North West | 34.65 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 59.15 |
| East Midlands | 55.37 |
| West Midlands | 35.71 |
| East of England | 37.18 |
| London | 142.08 |
| South East | 72.78 |
| South West | 66.15 |
| Wales | 12.10 |

[1] Figures shown as FTE as at 30 June 2007 and can be found in issue 13 of the Workforce Information Report.
[2] Vacancies are defined as 'active vacancies', which includes any post that is being actively recruited into.
[3] Due to the HR system in use, Hampshire probation area (South East region), Greater Manchester probation area (North West region) and West Midlands probation area (West Midlands region) have been unable to provide any vacancy figures and are excluded from this return.

## Release on Licence

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released on temporary licence in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [279262]

**Mr. Straw:** Records are not held of the number of prisoners granted temporary release. However, the numbers of temporary release licences issued in 2007-08 was 441,167. This figure is the total of all individual licences issued, as some prisoners will be granted temporary release on a number of occasions and as a result will be issued with multiple licences over the course of a year. The 2008-09 figure will be published in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008 at the end of July 2009. The publication of this bulletin has been pre-announced on the Ministry of Justice and the United Kingdom Statistics Authority websites.

Release on temporary licence is the mechanism that enables prisoners to participate in necessary activities, outside of the prison establishment, that directly contribute to their resettlement into the community and their development of a purposeful law abiding life. Prisoners are not granted temporary release unless they meet the eligibility criteria and pass a stringent risk assessment.

## Young Offenders: Crimes of Violence

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average sentence for a *(a)* section 18 and *(b)* section 20 grievous bodily harm offence for those aged (i) 21 years and over and (ii) under 21 years old was in 2007-08; [281309]

(2) what the average sentence for those over the age of 21 years convicted of a section 47 offence was in 2007-08. [281311]

**Claire Ward:** The available data are shown in the following table. Data for 2008 will not be available until Sentencing Statistics 2008 is published later in the year.

*Offenders aged over 21 and under 21 sentenced under sections 18,20 and 47 of Offences Against the Persons Act 1861,2007*

| | *Offender aged 21 and over* | *Offender aged under 21* |
|---|---|---|
| *Section 18*[1] | | |
| Total number sentenced | 1,107 | 627 |
| Absolute discharge | 1 | 2 |
| Conditional discharge | 0 | 0 |
| Fine | 2 | 2 |
| Community sentence | 20 | 65 |
| Fully suspended sentence | 18 | 18 |
| Immediate custody | 1,024 | 524 |
| Otherwise dealt with | 42 | 16 |
| Number of indeterminate sentences | 304 | 95 |
| ACSL (months) for determinate sentences | 47.3 | 37.7 |
| *Section 20*[2] | | |
| Total number sentenced | 2,955 | 1,592 |
| Absolute discharge | 2 | 2 |
| Conditional discharge | 20 | 14 |
| Fine | 19 | 14 |
| Community sentence | 372 | 622 |
| Fully suspended sentence | 975 | 218 |
| Immediate custody | 1492 | 692 |
| Otherwise dealt with | 75 | 30 |
| ACSL (months) | 20.1 | 16.1 |
| *Section 47*[3] | | |
| Total number sentenced | 10,118 | |

*Offenders aged over 21 and under 21 sentenced under sections 18,20 and 47 of Offences Against the Persons Act 1861,2007*

| | *Offender aged 21 and over* | *Offender aged under 21* |
|---|---|---|
| Absolute discharge | 16 | |
| Conditional discharge | 413 | |
| Fine | 359 | |
| Community sentence | 3,068 | |
| Fully suspended sentence | 3,086 | |
| Immediate custody | 2,821 | |
| Otherwise dealt with | 355 | |
| ACSL (months) | 11.5 | |

[1] Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm

[2] Malicious wounding, racially aggravated malicious wounding, religiously aggravated malicious wounding, racially or religiously aggravated malicious wounding

[3] Assault occasioning actual bodily harm, racially aggravated assault occasioning actual bodily harm, religiously aggravated assault occasioning actual bodily harm, racially or religiously aggravated assault occasioning actual bodily harm,

*Notes:*

ACSL excludes indeterminate sentences.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

The table shows the sentences handed down to and the average custodial sentence length (ACSL) for determinate sentences for those aged 21 and over under sections 18, section 20 and 47 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 for 2007. The table also shows the sentences handed down to, and the ACSL for, offenders aged under 21, sentenced under sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 for 2007. Also included is the number of indeterminate sentences for the section 18 offences. These data are based on the offences under section 18, section 20 and section 47, where such offences were the principal offences for which the offender was sentenced. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Friday 26 June 2009*

## TREASURY

### Pathfinder Money Guidance Service

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to review the outcome of the pathfinder Money Guidance service announced in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report. [282604]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The pathfinder Money Guidance service, covering the North West and North East of England, launched on 14 April and will run until March 2010. On current plans, interim evaluation findings will be available in the autumn and evaluation will be completed in spring 2010. The Treasury will review interim and final evaluation findings to inform decisions on national roll-out of the Money Guidance service.

### VAT: Buildings

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the application of value added tax to fees charged for the repair and maintenance of listed buildings; and if he will make a statement. [282452]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government have had a number of representations on this matter and it continues to keep the impact of VAT on all building work under review.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Anguilla: Crime

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1193W, on the Caribbean: crime, what funding the UK provided for the establishment of the Drugs and Crime Task Force in Anguilla. [282273]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has provided approximately £50,000 in funding for the establishment of the Drugs and Gun Crime Task Force in Anguilla.

The Drug and Gun Crime Task Force was established in 2006 by the Commissioner of Police in Anguilla. On the request of the government of Anguilla, the FCO provided co-funding for experienced, retired officers from the UK to train and mentor the task force following its inception. The task force is now fully funded by the Royal Anguilla Police Force.

### British Overseas Territories

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 166W, on British Overseas Territories: young offenders, how many records on the Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System relate to people trafficking offences. [282283]

**Chris Bryant:** There are 199 records held on the Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System related to people trafficking.

### British Virgin Islands: Crimes of Violence

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1848-49W, on the British Virgin Islands: crimes of violence, how many of the crimes were committed against British tourists in each year. [282278]

**Chris Bryant:** The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force is responsible for the collation of crime statistics. However, they have advised that they do not routinely record crime statistics according to the victim's nationality or immigration status.

### Cayman Islands: Crimes of Violence

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009 on the Cayman Islands: crimes of violence, how many of the crimes were committed against British tourists in each year. [282279]

**Chris Bryant:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, on 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 219W, which states that the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service do not record crime statistics according to nationality and are therefore unable to supply this information.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281055]

**Chris Bryant:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) reports all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and to the Information Commissioner. Information on personal data incidents is published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008. In 2008-09 the FCO recorded no major personal data incidents that required reporting to the Information Commissioner. Nine personal data incidents were centrally reported and recorded. In each case mitigating action was taken.

Figures for 2007-08 were published in the last year's annual resource accounts. It is not possible to provide the details for previous years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

### Economic and Monetary Union

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277174]

**Chris Bryant:** The Government's policy on membership of the single currency remains as set out in my right hon. Friend the then Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement on the five tests assessment in June 2003. In principle, the Government are in favour of UK membership; in practice the economic conditions must be right. The determining factor is the national economic interests and whether, on the basis of an assessment of the five economic tests, the economic case for joining is clear and unambiguous. Euro Ministers are responsible for Euro preparations in their Department and attend Euro Ministers Steering Group meetings as necessary. However, meetings are held only when necessary to discuss practical preparations to ensure that a smooth changeover would occur if and when the five tests had been met.

### Egypt: Borders

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the government of Egypt on the opening to cargo of the Rafah border crossing; and if he will make a statement. [282183]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* It is vital that aid reaches the people in Gaza who need it. The UK has been consistent in its calls for better humanitarian access to the area. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has raised this issue on a number of occasions, most recently in his statement to the UN Security Council on 11 May 2009.

My predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) raised the issue of access through the Rafah crossing for humanitarian aid providers with the Egyptian Government when he was in Egypt on 21 May 2009. All aid to Gaza from Egypt is channelled through the Egyptian Red Crescent.

### Iran: Demonstrations

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the recent unrest in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [282508]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Diplomatic and media reporting, based on eyewitness testimony, has highlighted the violent and unacceptable response by the Iranian authorities to peaceful and legitimate protests by the Iranian people.

Iranian state media reports say that more than 20 protestors have been killed. Other reports suggest that several hundred people have been arrested since the announcement of the result by the electoral commission on 13 June 2009.

Both my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have made clear on a number of occasions that we deplore the violence against those who seek to protest peacefully, and that the media repression is unacceptable. And we have called on the Iranian authorities to investigate fully allegations that have been made about the election.

We continue to monitor the situation closely.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure the security of staff in the British Embassy in Tehran. [282509]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The safety of our staff and their families in Iran is of paramount concern. We take our responsibility for their security and that of our embassy premises extremely seriously.

In response to the recent political unrest in Iran we changed our travel advice to advise against all but essential travel to Iran. As a consequence of this advice, we withdrew the dependents of our staff from Tehran on 23 June 2009.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

### Overseas Aid: Terrorism

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to Part 2, section 8, page 61 of the Government document, Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare, published in March 2009, which countries have been assessed for counter-terrorism capacity; what funding has been provided to which countries under this initiative to date; how much his Department has budgeted for the project in the next three years; from what sources such funding will be drawn; and with which other Departments he has been working to deliver this project. [282512]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** £127 million has been allocated to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme from 2008-09 to 2010-11. Work will be carried out in priority countries in the Middle East, South and South East Asia, and North and East Africa. Projects are designed to improve CT capabilities. We cannot provide budgetary details for specific projects or individual countries due to the sensitivity of some of the work.

In delivering the Pursue strand of the Contest strategy, we are working with a range of Departments and agencies, including the Ministry of Defence, intelligence and security agencies, Home Office and the Metropolitan Police Service, who also contribute their own resources to delivering Contest overseas.

### Sri Lanka

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Sri Lanka next plans to visit the country; and if he will make a statement. [281976]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** My right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun, (Des Browne) visited Sri Lanka from 4 to 7 May 2009 in his capacity as a Member of Parliament and as part of a cross party delegation. We are in contact with the Sri Lankan authorities to seek a mutually convenient opportunity for a further visit by a cross party delegation of MPs. Our intention would be for Mr. Browne to again take part.

### Sudan: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of *(a)* Uganda and *(b)* Sudan in respect of the recent upsurge in violent activities by the Lord's Resistance Army in southern Sudan. [281966]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Officials at our High Commission in Kampala have had discussions with the Government of Uganda on Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) activity and stressed the importance of both continued regional cooperation to deal with the threat and protection of civilian populations from LRA attacks. Officials at our embassy office in Juba are also monitoring the situation closely and have raised the issue with other interested parties, including the UN.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* private meetings and *(b)* public engagements Ministers in her Department have attended at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [279486]

**Jim Knight:** Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

I can confirm that my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell) attended the following public engagements at which representatives from the think-tank Demos were present in the last 12 months.

| | *Meeting* |
|---|---|
| 5 January 2009 | Richard Reeves, Demos |
| 23 March 2009 | Richard Reeves, Demos |
| 7 May 2009 | Demos Reception |

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training courses have been attended by special advisers in her Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [279388]

**Jim Knight:** Special advisers receive training as appropriate to enable them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers".

### Vocational Training

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she is taking to provide relevant training to help back into employment those who became unemployed during the recession. [282451]

**Jim Knight:** The Budget made an additional £2.8 billion available to DWP, on top of the £1.3 billion funding announced in the pre-Budget report, which will ensure that over the next two years we can continue to expand our support to jobseekers through the economic downturn. From early 2010 all 18 to 24-year-olds will be guaranteed an offer of a job (either a new job through the Future Jobs Fund or an existing job in a key employment sector), work focused training, or a place on a Community Task Force. The Future Jobs Fund—worth around £1 billion—will create 150,000 new jobs for long-term unemployed people and will contribute significantly to the guaranteed offer for young people.

The Government are investing £0.5 billion over two years to support people through an expanded range of work and training options, to provide jobs through recruitment subsidies, support to start a business, work-related training and volunteering opportunities. This support includes access to 75,000 new work-focused training opportunities to help customers significantly increase their skills in order to enter work. The training, delivered on a part-time or full-time basis, will support people in progressing towards a full qualification. This extra help was introduced on 6 April and is available to all those who have been out of work and claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more.

In addition, in response to the current economic downturn, the Government have announced that:

Funding of £158 million has been made available through the European Social Fund for the Learning and Skills Council's Train to Gain programme for people who are newly unemployed or facing redundancy to undertake training linked to opportunities in the local labour market.

Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs) have been made available to all claimants from day one of unemployment.

We have removed barriers to full time training making it easier for long-term unemployed people to get access to new skills in order to compete for the local jobs on offer. The Government have put the funding arrangements in place to enable jobseekers at the six month point in their claim to move to a training allowance in order to benefit from full time intensive training of up to eight weeks, designed to meet employers' needs.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Parliament: ICT

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what progress the Commission has made in its review of the performance of parliamentary IT systems; and how many times House of Commons IT systems have been shut down in the last 12 months. [281773]

**Nick Harvey:** The recommendations made in the Administration Committee's report on Information and Communication Technology Services for Members (HC 498) are mostly completed. This has resulted in improvements being made to services and a clarification of the services offered.

PICT's major three year programme of infrastructure renewal began in April 2008 and remains on track. Renewal of the core services of e-mail and MS Office are due for completion by autumn 2009.

The parliamentary IT systems have experienced partial outages on 10 occasions in the last 12 months, two of which were for upgrades to security patches.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many soldiers serving in Afghanistan since Operation Herrick began have returned from Afghanistan as a *(a)* single and *(b)* multiple amputee; and if he will make a statement. (260368) [260368]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary gave on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 554W to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

We are currently reviewing the available information concerning amputations which have occurred as a result of Op Herrick, while ensuring that patient confidentiality is maintained. I will write to the hon. Member with the results of this review.

*Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Andrew Robathan:*

The Academic Department of Military Emergency Medicine (ADMEM) at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Birmingham, has recently begun to collate amputation statistics on a quarterly basis. Their records show that, between 1 April 2006 and 31 march 2009, a total of 51 UK Service personnel have suffered amputations due to injuries sustained while on operation deployment on OP HERRICK. These amputations can range from the loss of part of a finger or toe up to the loss of entire limb(s). There is no consolidated record of the number or nature of the amputations for each patient and that information could only be collated at disproportional cost.

Prior to 1 April 2006, comprehensive records were not held centrally and historic date could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

I hope this provides you with the information you require.

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are followed when a breach of the rules of engagement in Afghanistan by *(a)* UK and *(b)* allied military personnel are reported; and if he will make a statement. [281678]

**Bill Rammell:** For UK armed forces personnel, standard military investigation procedures would be used to investigate a report that the rules of engagement had been breached. Other nations will have their own procedures which it would not be appropriate to comment on.

### Armed Forces: Vehicles

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military vehicles of each type were reported *(a)* stolen and *(b)* missing in the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [281441]

**Bill Rammell:** The information requested is not held in the format requested. The following table provides the number of military vehicles reported to the MOD Police as stolen during the period from 1999-2009. Information is not available prior to 1999.

*Military vehicles reported stolen by year*

| | *Car* | *Land Rover* | *Mini-Bus* | *Van* | *Motorcycle* | *Quad Bike* | *Fork lift* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2000 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 2005 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| 2008 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 2009 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 11 | 2 |

### Departmental Pay

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* sections of his Department and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff. [282538]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Neither the main department nor those non-departmental public bodies who have their own pay arrangements have sought to use additional money saved from efficiency savings to increase pay in 2009.

I refer the hon. Member to the information published in the civil service pay guidance 2009-10.

### Piracy: Navy

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for New Forest East of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 626W, on piracy, under what authority the Royal Navy seizes piracy equipment from suspected pirates. [282667]

**Bill Rammell:** Royal Navy vessels participating in counter-piracy operations are provided with detailed rules of engagement (ROE) setting out the measures they may take in relation to pirate vessels, including the seizure of suspected pirate vessels and equipment. These ROE are in accordance with international law, including the United Nations convention on the law of the sea (UNCLOS), and are kept under regular review.

### QinetiQ: Location

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the effect on employment of the decision by QinetiQ to relocate operations from the Hebrides Range to Aberporth Range. [282596]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Hebrides and Aberporth Ranges are owned by the MOD and operated on its behalf by QinetiQ. The MOD proposes to relocate only trials control from the Hebrides Ranges to the Aberporth Ranges. Current levels of trials and training activity at the Hebrides Range are expected to remain broadly unchanged. Under the proposals up to 125 jobs would be lost at the Hebrides Ranges and up to 20 at the Aberporth Ranges.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the effects on the *(a)* economy and *(b)* society of the Western Isles of QinetiQ's decision to relocate operations from the Hebrides Range to Aberporth Range. [282597]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The consultation documentation on the proposed changes involving the Hebrides and Aberporth Ranges, issued on 17 June 2009, contains Regional Socio-Economic reports on both the Western Isles and Ceredigion. It also contains a survey of the Regional Impact on Employment of the proposed changes to activities at Hebrides Ranges. This estimates that, in addition to the 125 direct job losses at the Range itself, there could be about 40 further induced or indirect job losses in the wider economy.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department consulted *(a)* community representatives, *(b)* representatives of QinetiQ employees, *(c)* local enterprise agencies and *(d)* Comhairle nan Eilean Siar before QinetiQ's decision to relocate operations from the Hebrides Range to Aberporth Range. [282598]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The MOD wrote to all major stakeholders for both the Aberporth and Hebrides Ranges in July 2007 outlining the study into the future of the ranges and the possible implications for the sites and workforce. Further letters were sent in June 2009 outlining the proposals and entering into a formal period of consultation which will conclude in August 2009.

A meeting has been held at ministerial level with the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar. Offers were made to meet with the chief executive of the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and other representatives. MOD officials have also met with the National Trust for Scotland and other parties with an interest in the island of St. Kilda on a number of occasions.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has had discussions with the Scottish Government on QinetiQ's decision to relocate its operations from the Hebrides Range to Aberporth Range. [282599]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The MOD wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, John Swinney MSP, at the beginning of the study into the future of the Hebrides and Aberporth Ranges in July 2007 and to Minister for Europe, External affairs and Culture, Michael Russell MSP, in June 2009 on completion of the study to inform him of the decision in principle. There has also been informal contact at official level.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Hebrides Range is used for weapons testing by countries other than the UK. [282600]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Since the beginning of the Long Term Partnering Arrangement in 2003, under which QinetiQ operates a number of key test and evaluation facilities on behalf of the MOD, the following countries have used the MOD Hebrides Range for weapons testing and military training:

USA in 2003-04

Switzerland in 2005 (also scheduled to use the Range in 2010)

Germany in 2004-05 (also scheduled to use the Range in 2010)

Denmark in 2005 and 2007

Italy in 2003 (support role)

Netherlands in 2008 (Marines)

Sweden in 2007 and 2009.

NATO also uses the range annually.

### White Phosphorus

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any munitions containing white phosphorus manufactured in the UK have been used in theatres of military operation against UK armed forces in the last 10 years. [280420]

**Bill Rammell:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## TRANSPORT

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many pensioners in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby received a concessionary bus pass in the latest period for which figures are available. [282549]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

Merseyside and Crosby are part of the Merseytravel area. The last information held by the Department is that as of March 2009 Merseytravel had issued 307,132 passes to older and disabled people.

### Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 704W, on the Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission, who the UK representatives on the Intergovernmental Commission are; and how they were selected. [282585]

**Chris Mole:** The UK delegation to the Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) currently comprises: Roy Griffins, Head of the UK delegation; Richard Clifton, Head of the UK delegation to the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority; Chris Whomersley, Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Tom Dowdall, Home Office; Herve Mathevet, HM Revenue and Customs; Linda Willson, Department for Transport; and Brian Kogan, Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). The delegation may be accompanied at meetings by expert advisers in relation to specific items on the agenda.

The Head of UK delegation, the Safety Authority representative, and the Office of Rail Regulation member are appointed by the Department following consultation with the Office of Rail Regulation. The Department also appoints its own representative. The remaining members of the UK delegation are nominated by the department or authority they represent.

### Channel Tunnel Railway Line

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 704W, on the Channel Tunnel railway line: fares, if he will request the Intergovernmental Commission to raise with Eurotunnel the level of track access charges through the Channel Tunnel, with particular reference to the implementation of his policy of encouraging *(a)* high speed passenger rail traffic and *(b)* international rail freight. [282586]

**Chris Mole:** Under Article 12(1) of the Treaty of Canterbury of 1986, Eurotunnel are free, within the framework of national and Community law, to determine their commercial policy and tariffs.

It would be improper for the Intergovernmental Commission to consider any representation from the Department for Transport on this matter.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to his answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 427W, on the Channel Tunnel railway line, for what reason no recent assessment of the effect of track access charges on the potential growth of international freight through the Channel Tunnel has been made. [282587]

**Chris Mole:** Any assessment of the effect of track access charges on the potential growth of international freight through the Channel Tunnel is a matter for Eurotunnel and the rail freight operators.

### Cross-Channel Rail

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that SNCF does not secure a disproportionate share of cross-Channel rail traffic. [282562]

**Chris Mole:** It is for the rail operators to market their services to customers. As such the Department for Transport is not in a position to interfere in shares of cross-channel rail traffic.

### Departmental Billing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 484W, on departmental billing, how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies paid in interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years. [282331]

**Chris Mole:** One of the Department for Transport's non-departmental public bodies, the Commission for Integrated Transport, incurred a cost of £91.13 (£50.00 late payment interest and a penalty charge of £41.13) in 2008-09 under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.

None of the Department for Transport's other non-departmental public bodies paid interest under the Act for the last three years.

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency office in each of the last five years. [280314]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Driving: Licensing

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many applications for driving licences were found to be supported by birth certificates which claimed to but did not relate to the applicant in each of the last five years. [281934]

**Paul Clark:** The following table provides the number of applications for a driving licence, over the last four financial years, that were supported with a birth certificate that appeared not to relate to the applicant. These figures were not recorded before April 2005:

| *Financial year* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 73 |
| 2007-08 | 59 |
| 2006-07 | 65 |
| 2005-06 | 31 |

### High Speed Trains

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what consideration he has given to the merits of transferring High Speed 1 to Network Rail. [282561]

**Chris Mole:** Having considered various options, on 1 March 2006, the Secretary of State for Transport announced that the best way of delivering continuing value for money for the taxpayer in relation to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (since renamed High Speed 1) would be for there to be an open, transparent and competitive process. The Government are currently engaged

in a restructuring of London and Continental Railways. Following this, it is the Government's intention, as market conditions allow, to sell, via an open and competitive auction, a long-term concession for High Speed 1 in such a way as to maximise value for money for the taxpayer.

### Motorcycles: Driving Instruction

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans his Department has to review *(a)* the compulsory basic training for moped riders and *(b)* the moped riding age. [281760]

**Paul Clark:** The Driving Standards Agency is reviewing the current arrangements for training learner moped riders in line with the commitments in the Government's Motorcycle Strategy and plans to consult later this year. We have no plans to change our current minimum age of 16 years for riding mopeds.

### Railways: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which railway stations in the London Borough of Bexley have received financial support from his Department for the installation of step-free access since 1997. [282755]

**Chris Mole:** Access for all small schemes funding of around £41,000 has so far been offered towards step-free access projects with a total value of about £86,000 in the Bexley Borough. This funding is being used to provide mobile access ramps at Purfleet; removal of steps to the entrance and widening of the footpath at Welling; a low gradient pathway to the platform at Barnehurst; and a dropped kerb at Bexley.

The latest application pack for Small Schemes funding, for projects to be delivered in 2010-11, is now on the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk/accessunder 'Rail' and we would welcome further applications.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road deaths there were in *(a)* London and *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon in each of the last three years for which records are available; how many of those killed were (i) drivers, (ii) vehicle passengers and (iii) pedestrians; how many such deaths occurred in 30 miles per hour zones; and how many were attributable to excess speed. [281829]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is given in the following tables. Information on contributory factors is not available below Government Office Region level since the number of accidents is small and therefore it may be possible to identify individuals, so fatalities involving excess speed are not shown for Hillingdon.

*Road accident fatalities in London and in the London borough of Hillingdon: 2006-08*

*Number of fatalities*

| Region | Casualty type | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | All roads | 30 mph roads | All roads | 30 mph roads | All roads | 30 mph roads |
| London | Driver or rider | 104 | 71 | 85 | 65 | 93 | 68 |
| | Passenger | 27 | 15 | 28 | 25 | 17 | 11 |
| | Pedestrian | 100 | 80 | 109 | 102 | 95 | 86 |
| | All casualties | 231 | 166 | 222 | 192 | 205 | 165 |
| London borough of Hillingdon[1] | Driver or rider | 3 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| | Passenger | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Pedestrian | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| | All casualties | 6 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 13 | 12 |

[1] Excluding Heathrow airport.

*Fatalities in London in accidents where excess speed was reported[1]: 2006-08*

*Number of fatalities*

| Casualty type | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All roads | 30 mph roads | All roads | 30 mph roads | All roads | 30 mph roads |
| Driver or rider | 56 | 37 | 21 | 14 | 20 | 15 |
| Passenger | 10 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 2 | 2 |
| Pedestrian | 26 | 23 | 21 | 19 | 6 | 6 |
| All casualties | 92 | 67 | 53 | 44 | 28 | 23 |

[1] Includes accidents where one of the contributory factors exceeding the speed limit or travelling too fast for conditions was reported, and in which a police officer attended the scene and a contributory factor was reported.

### Roads: Construction

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to the construction of highways in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years; [282148]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to the creation of additional lanes on highways in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [282149]

**Mr. Khan:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I have given him today (UIN 281849).

In addition to that answer, the following table provides information on what funding the Department for Transport has allocated to the creation of additional lines on highways in *(a)* Essex in each of the last five years. Information is not held centrally on funding that has been allocated to *(b)* Castle Point.

| *Schemes* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *£ million 2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M25 junction 27-30 widening | 2.820 | 4.200 | 6.113 | 3.874 | 3.790 |
| M25 junction 28/A12 Brook Street junction improvement | 0.054 | 0.300 | 3.387 | 9.790 | 0.000 |
| M11 junction 8 to 9 Climbing Lanes | 1.520 | 0.800 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Great Leighs Bypass (local transport major scheme) (see note) | 1.400 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |

*Note:*
This scheme had earlier funding prior to 2004-05.

### Roads: Finance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much capital funding has been spent on roads in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [281849]

**Mr. Khan:** The following table provides information on how much capital funding has been spent on roads in *(a)* Essex in each of the last five years. Information is not held centrally on funding that has been allocated to *(b)* Castle Point constituency.

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Highways agency major schemes (costing over £5 million) | 2.1 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 14.3 | 4.8 |
| Highways agency schemes (costing under £5 million) | 0.583 | 4.113 | 0.365 | 2.396 | 1.016 |
| Local highway authority schemes (costing over £5 million) | 0 | 1.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community infrastructure funding | 0 | 0 | 0.534 | 4.446 | 3.503 |

In addition, Ministers also announced on 29 March 2009 funding for three further community infrastructure fund schemes being promoted by Essex county council. No expenditure has yet to be provided to the following schemes:

New A12 Junction—£11.2 million

First Avenue Multi Modal Corridor—£3.58 million

A414 dualling—£9.9 million.

The Department for Transport also provides integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities, which would include Essex county council. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 773W, which provides the funding support provided to Essex county council in the last five years.

### Roads: Safety

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the Government's further response, HC (2008-09) 422, to paragraph 132 of the Eleventh Report of the Transport Committee, Session 2007-08, HC 460, how many members the proposed independent expert panel on road safety will have; and what criteria will apply to the appointment of members to the panel. [282209]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* The current consultation on a new road safety strategy includes a proposal to create a new independent expert panel to improve both the assessment of trends in road deaths and the scrutiny of road safety more generally.

It would be wrong to prejudge the consultation by discussing the details of the new panel before it is confirmed that such a body should exist. However, any such appointments would need to comply with the Code of the Office of the Commissioner on Public Appointments.

**Mark Hunter:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the Government's further response, HC (2008-09) 422, to paragraph 156 of the Eleventh Report of the Transport Committee, Session 2007-08, HC 460, how many safety representatives from each mode will be a part of the cross-modal group; and who these representatives are. [282210]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 25 June 2009]:* The Transport Safety Group brings together policy officials from within Department for Transport working on aviation, shipping rail, dangerous goods and road user safety, along with colleagues from the Rail Accident Investigation Bureau, the Marine Accident Investigation Bureau and the Air Accident Investigation Bureau. Each area is typically represented by one colleague though there is no formal limit. Attendance will vary depending on the issues under discussion.

### Transport

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the average number of journeys per day by each mode of transport between London and destinations in Castle Point constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [282862]

**Mr. Khan:** The requested information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Vehicle Certification Agency: Manpower

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each Vehicle Certification Agency office in each of the last five years. [279291]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested on the number of Vehicle Certification Agency staff in each category has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Vehicle Certification Agency: Pay

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Vehicle Certification Agency in each of the last five years. [281632]

**Paul Clark:** The Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) paid the following bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in each of the last five years:

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance related bonuses* | | | | | | |
| *(a)* Directors | [1] | [1] | [1] | 600 | 1,250 | 1,750 |
| *(b)* Senior managers | [1] | [1] | [1] | 450 | 3,100 | 1,800 |
| *(c)* Specialist and delivery managers | [1] | [1] | [1] | 3,750 | 4,750 | 6,850 |
| *(d)* Executive support and administration staff | [1] | [1] | [1] | 17,225 | 13,750 | 15,750 |
| Total (performance related) | 21,478 | 14,946 | 18,192 | 22,025 | 22,850 | 26,150 |
| *VCA Group bonus*[2] | 0 | 0 | 30,482 | 91,075 | 165,000 | n/a |
| Estimated breakdown (equal shares) | | | | | | |
| *(a)* Directors | [1] | [1] | 1,980 | 7,814 | 12,526 | n/a |
| *(b)* Senior managers | [1] | [1] | 1,980 | 7,814 | 12,526 | n/a |
| *(c)* Specialist and delivery managers | [1] | [1] | 3,080 | 12,156 | 19,486 | n/a |
| *(d)* Executive support and administration staff | [1] | [1] | 23,442 | 63,291 | 120,462 | n/a |
| Total amount paid to all groups | 0 | 0 | 30,482 | 91,075 | 165,000 | n/a |

[1] No breakdown available
[2] Paid in following years

VCA chief executive is in addition to above and published in VCA's annual report and accounts.

## OLYMPICS

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many full-time equivalent officials in her Office are working on *(a)* project management, *(b)* legacy planning, *(c)* project oversight, *(d)* financial oversight and *(e)* other matters relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and what plans she has for future staffing levels in each case. [279813]

**Tessa Jowell:** In my capacity as Minister for the Cabinet Office, the Olympics, London, Humanitarian Assistance and Paymaster General, my private office is currently staffed by a team of nine officials (of which there is one vacancy) and two special advisers (of which there is one vacancy). Between them they cover my full portfolio of responsibilities. This includes the project, legacy, financial and other functions for which my staff in the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) are responsible.

The GOE report to me through the permanent secretary of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Their roles and future staffing plans are included in the answer to be provided by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Speaker: Elections

**John Mann:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will publish lists of all hon. Members who participated in each round of voting to elect a Commons Speaker on 22 June 2009. [282453]

**Barbara Keeley:** No list of Members who voted in the secret ballot is compiled.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts: East of England

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated to *(a)* visual arts, *(b)* musical arts, *(c)* music festivals, *(d)* public art, *(e)* art galleries, *(f)* the development of local artists and *(g)*

theatrical arts in (i) Mid Bedfordshire constituency and (ii) the East of England in each year since 1997, and if he will make a statement. [281703]

**Barbara Follett:** Arts Council England is the national development agency for the arts in England. It distributes public money from Government and the national lottery. Arts Council England advises that it has allocated funding as set out in the following tables.

*Regularly Funded Organisations*

Arts Council England's portfolio of Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs) is funded from grant in-aid. In Mid-Bedfordshire there are no RFOs.

*East of England*

£

| Artform | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Combined arts | 401,461 | 594,376 | 727,505 | 762,002 | 791,557 | 729,617 | 746,543 |
| Dance | 289,273 | 289,151 | 315,073 | 397,943 | 469,412 | 559,697 | 593,874 |
| Literature | 102,195 | 136,323 | 304,891 | 320,275 | 400,762 | 399,851 | 410,848 |
| Music | 628,035 | 888,888 | 1,151,906 | 1,691,634 | 1,584,874 | 1,859,260 | 2,145,369 |
| Not artform specific | 275,930 | 396,258 | 112,248 | 467,104 | 424,535 | 332,547 | 286,848 |
| Theatre | 1,863,565 | 2,301,408 | 3,014,297 | 3,142,331 | 3,215,218 | 3,431,029 | 3,567,132 |
| Visual arts total | 804,822 | 888,107 | 1,122,257 | 1,279,136 | 1,429,332 | 1,383,999 | 1,427,390 |
| Total | 4,365,281 | 5,494,511 | 6,748,177 | 8,060,425 | 8,315,690 | 8,696,000 | 9,178,004 |

Prior to 2002-03, the Regional Arts Boards were independent bodies and they maintained records according to their own systems and requirements. Consequently, limited compatible figures for the RFO portfolio are available for earlier years.

*Grants for the Arts—Individuals*

£

*Mid-Bedfordshire*

| Artform | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Combined arts | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dance | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Literature | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Music | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Not known | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Theatre | — | 4,023 | — | — | — | 4,023 |
| Visual arts | — | — | — | 1,860 | — | 1,860 |
| Total | — | 4,023 | — | 1,860 | — | 5,883 |

£

*East of England*

| Artform | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Combined arts | 10,278 | 63,439 | 26,473 | 10,890 | — | 111,080 |
| Dance | 6,533 | 66,425 | 23,715 | 105,215 | 14,296 | 216,184 |
| Literature | 88,471 | 112,422 | 109,558 | 100,438 | 30,510 | 441,399 |
| Music | 18,494 | 69,027 | 91,338 | 90,104 | 7,565 | 276,528 |
| Not artform specific | 8,595 | 12,190 | 250 | 2,104 | — | 21,139 |
| Theatre | 8,635 | 271,080 | 129,342 | 55,435 | 23,500 | 488,192 |
| Visual arts | 176,610 | 384,554 | 245,833 | 409,560 | 30,908 | 1,247,464 |
| Total | 315,616 | 979,136 | 626,708 | 773,746 | 106,779 | 2,801,985 |

The Grants for the Arts Programme began in 2003-04. The Programme funds individuals, arts organisations and other people who use the arts in their work. The Grants for the Arts—Organisations strand has always been lottery funded (see next table); the Grants for the Arts—Individuals strand was funded from Grant-in-Aid until 2007-08, and has been lottery funded since then.

*Lottery funding*

£

*Mid-Bedfordshire*

| Artform | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-00 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Not art form specific | — | — | 11,080 | 9,270 | 37,571 | 13,643 |
| Combined arts | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dance | 12,988 | — | — | 24,000 | 19,100 | 21,425 |
| Drama | 4,110 | — | — | — | — | — |

*Lottery funding*

£

*Mid-Bedfordshire*

| *Artform* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-00* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Film[1] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Literature | 2,610 | 14,881 | — | — | — | — |
| Music | 5,000 | — | — | — | 22,293 | — |
| Visual arts | 5,812 | — | — | 14,150 | — | — |
| Total | 30,520 | 14,881 | 11,080 | 47,420 | 78,964 | 35,068 |

| *Artform* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Not art form specific | — | — | — | — | — | — | 71,564 |
| Combined arts | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dance | — | — | — | — | — | — | 77,513 |
| Drama | 3,608 | 8,440 | — | — | — | — | 20,803 |
| Film[1] | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Literature | — | — | — | — | — | — | 17,491 |
| Music | — | — | — | — | 2,736 | — | 86,029 |
| Visual arts | — | — | 30,000 | — | — | — | 81,962 |
| Total | 3,608 | 8,440 | 30,000 | — | 2,736 | — | 355,362 |

£

*East of England*

| *Artform* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-00* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Not artform specific | 257,544 | 621,096 | 325,664 | 651,027 | 893,185 | 251,530 |
| Combined arts | 2,041,492 | 337,322 | 204,541 | 378,896 | 10,500,439 | 1,131,032 |
| Dance | 453,456 | 262,170 | 349,742 | 454,430 | 532,241 | 180,225 |
| Drama | 723,253 | 57,972 | 1,007,486 | 1,928,754 | 5,718,812 | 426,343 |
| Film[1] | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Literature | 184,325 | 44,131 | 15,128 | 80,733 | 83,605 | 62,303 |
| Music | 2,592,408 | 527,873 | 110,398 | 861,686 | 1,306,182 | 1,032,961 |
| Visual arts | 1,255,552 | 883,710 | 277,909 | 723,981 | 7,333,081 | 1,320,851 |
| Total | 7,508,030 | 2,734,274 | 2,290,868 | 5,079,529 | 26,369,545 | 4,405,245 |

| *Artform* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Not artform specific | 542,287 | 804,261 | 482,947 | 917,790 | — | 265,000 | 9,692,340 |
| Combined arts | 1,773,891 | 330,942 | 555,484 | 1,628,380 | 1,176,606 | 871,991 | 22,770,595 |
| Dance | 3,838,119 | 248,675 | 616,803 | 829,575 | 439,012 | 552,432 | 9,060,367 |
| Drama | 808,985 | 1,597,754 | 817,111 | 1,343,459 | 1,248,644 | 949,637 | 26,678,399 |
| Film[1] | 33,433 | 31,159 | 956,949 | 85,598 | — | — | 1,107,139 |
| Literature | 192,593 | 157,702 | 141,753 | 742,233 | 262,299 | 442,558 | 2,436,077 |
| Music | 5,776,926 | 1,420,640 | 1,483,627 | 1,025,007 | 791,925 | 1,030,014 | 24,982,540 |
| Visual arts | 3,705,030 | 1,674,378 | 1,169,885 | 1,082,195 | 609,187 | 884,593 | 22,688,101 |
| Total | 16,671,284 | 6,265,511 | 6,224,559 | 7,654,237 | 4,527,673 | 4,996,225 | 119,415,558 |

[1] Awards classified as Film relate to monies distributed on behalf of Arts Council England by UK Film Council.

Figures are for all lottery-funded programmes that ran since 1997, including those organised by the Eastern Regional Arts Board, the Grants for the Arts—Organisations Programme, which began in 2003-04 and the Grants for the Arts—Individuals Programme, which became lottery-funded after 2007-08.

### Cultural Heritage

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* local government and *(b)* regional public bodies on developing the role of cultural and historical resources in local economies. [280270]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department has not issued guidance on developing the role of cultural and historical resources in local economies either to local authorities or regional bodies. These bodies are themselves better placed to understand and guide local decision-making.

The Department has however published a number of related statements. 'Lifting people, Lifting Places', published in May 2009, outlines how government can offer further support in the current economic climate, by developing employment opportunities in culture and the creative industries, measures to transform town centres and other approaches to building the new economy with culture and creativity at its heart.

'Looking After Our Town Centres', jointly published with DCLG in April 2009, identifies the best steps communities can take to keep town centres thriving.

DCMS is chairing a national group to address culture and sport within the Sub National Review and related Integrated Regional Strategies. The Department's four main NDPBs have been working together to deliver objectives under the Regional Strategies area of work.

For example, NDPB offices in the North West region have prepared a joint response to the Integrated Regional Strategy.

DCMS's local government improvement programme published 'A Passion for Excellence: One Year On' in March 2009 as part of an ongoing project, to support local government as "leaders of place", working with their local partners to deliver better outcomes, improve the quality of life locally and improve the delivery of cultural and sport services to local people. It can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5948.aspx

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff at each grade have worked primarily on matters related to tourism in each of the last 12 years. [281274]

**Barbara Follett:** There are currently 10 officials in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport supporting Ministers to develop and implement tourism policy. Other officers in the Department are also working on public engagement in respect of tourism matters. However, it is not possible to give figures as the number of staff working primarily on tourism matters in previous year because no records are available.

Following the recommendations of the DCMS Capability Review, standard functions like finance and briefing were brigaded into central teams and a flexible project resource was created to respond to new demands arising in any of our sectors, including tourism. This leaves smaller but more focussed specialist teams working on individual sectors, supported by the new central teams.

### Museums: Strategy

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish his Department's museums strategy. [282535]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department's strategic agency for museums, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, will publish shortly a strategic action plan for England's museums. This has been developed in consultation with museums and their representative bodies.

### National Lottery: Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Lottery funding has been allocated to organisations in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years; and which organisations received such funding. [282077]

**Mr. Simon:** I have arranged for a list to be placed in the libraries of both Houses, of organisations in Essex and Castle Point that received lottery awards in each of the last five years.

The following tables show the value of lottery grants awarded to organisations in Essex and Castle Point in the same years, along with the total amount of lottery grants awarded during those years.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *2004-05* | |
| Total lottery money awarded | 1,631,700,181.00 |
| Total lottery money to Essex | 24,472,090.00 |
| Total lottery money to Castle Point | 543,532.00 |
| *2005-06* | |
| Total lottery money awarded | 1,403,319,103.00 |
| Total lottery money to Essex | 22,789,381.00 |
| Total lottery money to Castle Point | 434,880.00 |
| *2006-07* | |
| Total lottery money awarded | 1,089,924,311.00 |
| Total lottery money to Essex | 16,708,350.00 |
| Total lottery money to Castle Point | 112,536.00 |
| *2007-08* | |
| Total lottery money awarded | 1,651,881,453.00 |
| Total lottery money to Essex | 28,828,918.00 |
| Total lottery money to Castle Point | 250,253.00 |
| *2008-09* | |
| Total lottery money awarded | 958,554,325.00 |
| Total lottery money to Essex | 11,666,889.00 |
| Total lottery money to Castle Point | 47,107.00 |

These statistics come from the Department's Lottery Grants Database. The Database is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information on Lottery grants supplied by the Lottery distributors.

### National Lottery: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of all Lottery funding available has been awarded to organisations in *(a)* Tameside and *(b)* Stockport in the last 12 months. [279767]

**Mr. Simon:** Out of £805,595,710 Lottery funding awarded between 11 June 2008 and 11 June 2009, £1,357,072 was awarded to organisations in the Tameside Local Authority area, and £670,680 to organisations in the Stockport local authority area.

The information is derived from the Department's Lottery Grant database which is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

### Richmond Park: Parking

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department expects to receive recommendations from the Royal Parks Agency following the Agency's recent consultation on the proposal to introduce car park charging in Richmond Park; and if he will make a statement. [281880]

**Barbara Follett:** The Royal Parks has had a very large response to its consultation on changes to the Park Regulations. The results are currently being analysed with the expectation that the Agency will make its recommendations to Ministers by the end of July. I will

carefully consider the recommendations and I have already agreed to meet the hon. Member prior to making any decision.

### Television: Concessions

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pensioners in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire had a free television licence at the latest date for which figures are available. [282082]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 24 June 2009]:* TV Licensing, which administers free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, can provide breakdown only by postcode. However, according to the records from the Department for Work and Pensions, the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming the winter fuel payment in 2007-08 was in *(a)* Chorley, 5,450 and in *(b)* Lancashire 71,710. Figures for 2008-09 are still being compiled.

### Tourism

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of the impact of changes in the budget of Visit Britain since 2007 on the *(a)* tourist industry and *(b)* economy. [281248]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport requires its sponsored bodies to achieve value for money and VisitBritain's Tourism Framework Review sets a new agenda for the industry to work effectively with other structures.

In partnership with the industry and the wider public sector, the DCMS has a clear and coherent policy framework for industry growth. This includes branding and marketing improvement led by VisitBritain; the National Tourism Skills Strategy; work across Britain to drive up product quality through accommodation grading schemes and the better co-ordination of the over £350 million a year of public money invested in tourism at national, regional and local levels.

### Tourism: Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department plans to spend on encouraging international travellers to visit the UK during the London 2012 Olympics. [281276]

**Barbara Follett:** Between 2008-09 and 2010-11, VisitBritain has been allocated funding of around £130 million towards marketing and promotion.

VisitBritain is in the process of reviewing its Olympics Delivery Plan and intends to submit this to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport shortly.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Cancer

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of cancer have been diagnosed in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* England in each year since 2000. [281669]

**Angela E. Smith:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell dated June 2009:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of cancer have been diagnosed in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* England in each year since 2000 (281669).

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of cancer for the years 2000 to 2006 for *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* England are in Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Registration of newly diagnosed cases of cancer[1], Peterborough parliamentary constituency[2], and England, 2000 to 2006*

| | Peterborough | England |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 394 | 229,339 |
| 2001 | 398 | 232,575 |
| 2002 | 380 | 230,208 |
| 2003 | 424 | 234,434 |
| 2004 | 394 | 239,273 |
| 2005 | 367 | 241,974 |
| 2006 | 382 | 242,184 |

[1] All cancers, coded to C00-C97 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (C44).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

*Source:*
Office for national Statistics

### Departmental Pay

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which *(a)* sections of her Department and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible have requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff. [282540]

**Angela E. Smith:** The Cabinet Office and the non-departmental public bodies for which it is responsible have not requested money saved from efficiency savings to be used for increased pay in their 2009 pay offers to staff.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the responsibilities of her Department's Director of Digital Engagement are. [282042]

**Tessa Jowell:** The director for digital engagement works across Government Departments to promote the use of digital technology to communicate with the public. He is responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Power of Information Taskforce and for the programme to create better access to government held public data.

He also chairs the Government's Knowledge Council and is responsible for increasing the civil service's use of internal digital tools to improve cross Government policy development and service delivery.

### Floods

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of provision to category 1 responders of assessments of critical infrastructure in their areas to enable them to assess vulnerability to flooding. [280480]

**Tessa Jowell:** Arrangements were put in place in March 2008 to share information on critical national infrastructure with all local resilience forums (LRFs) in England. This information has been shared with LRFs to enable local risk assessment and generic planning, under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004); we will assess the results next year.

In the immediate future the natural hazards team is undertaking an assessment of the vulnerability of the critical national infrastructure to flooding and will be working with the relevant lead Government Departments, economic regulators and operators to reduce those vulnerabilities.

### Marketing: Apprentices

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Central Office of Information spent on *(a)* producing advertising and *(b)* buying advertising space as part of the Make Things Happen apprenticeships advertising campaign. [266498]

**Tessa Jowell:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the Chief Executive to reply.

*Letter from Mark Lund, dated June 2009:*

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on the Make things Happen apprenticeships campaign (266498).

COI supplied details of costs incurred in the campaign as part of the response given to the hon. Member by the Learning Skills Council's acting chief executive (30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column [illegible]). Copies of the letter sent to the hon. Member by the acting chief executive are available in the libraries of the House.

### Regional Support Unit

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* staffing level of her Department's Regional Support Unit will be in 2009-10. [269897]

**Tessa Jowell:** At present £150,000 has been identified to cover the Cabinet Office costs for the regional support unit to co-ordinate regional communications. This includes the costs of a team of three staff.

### Strategic Horizons Unit: Manpower

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent staff work in the Cabinet Office's *(a)* Strategic Horizons Unit and *(b)* horizon-scanning divisions. [249902]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Strategic Horizons Unit was established in accordance with the Prime Minister's written ministerial statement of 22 July 2008 on the National Security Strategy:

"Alongside (the National Security Secretariat) a horizon scanning unit will be established which will co-ordinate the security-related horizon scanning currently undertaken in a number of Government Departments, with the intention of giving it an overarching framework and a more coherent output."

The unit began operations on 23 September 2008.

Four full-time equivalent staff work in the Cabinet Office's strategic horizons unit, and the unit is in the process of hiring one further member of staff. The functions of the vacant post are currently being performed by a member of the Intelligence Corps (Volunteers). There is no other Cabinet Office division for which horizon scanning is its main mission.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Dairy Farming

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the organisation Dairy Farmers of Great Britain. [281922]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 23 June 2009]:* On 17 June I attended a meeting of senior officials, Dairy Farmers of Britain Members Council, the receivers (PWC), Dairy UK, Farm unions, banks, and charity and benevolent organisations to continue co-ordinated efforts and work towards our common goal of minimising the impacts on all those affected.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) has spoken to regional development agencies to ask for their support, and has written to the British Bankers Association and the Agricultural Industries Confederation urging them to give any help they can to farmers affected by the Dairy Farmers of Britain collapse.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to make his Department carbon-neutral; and what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on making their Departments carbon-neutral; [281230]

(2) what steps he is taking to make his Department's agencies carbon-neutral; what his latest estimate is of the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from those agencies; and what steps he plans to take to reduce them; [281231]

(3) what his latest estimate is of the level of greenhouse gas emissions from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other Government departments; and what steps he is taking to seek to achieve reductions in emissions in each case. [281258]

**Dan Norris:** DEFRA and its Executive agencies are committed to reducing their carbon emissions.

Various energy efficiency projects have already been implemented across both the DEFRA and Executive Agency Estate including:

Installation of voltage regulation units. This technology significantly reduces energy consumption of a whole building by regulating the voltage level entering the building. Average electricity consumption has reduced by 11 per cent. as a result of installing this technology.

Other energy efficiency projects which have been implemented include upgrades to more efficient lighting, improvements to motor energy controls and gas boiler sequencing controls, all of which have delivered significant savings.

Thermal imaging surveys have been undertaken at a number of DEFRA laboratory sites. The results of the surveys will inform a programme of works to improve the thermal efficiency of buildings.

DEFRA is currently upgrading its electricity, gas and water meters to 'Smart meters' which will provide accurate and up to the minute consumption data. This data will be used to monitor and identify excessive consumption, providing a focus for strategic consumption reduction. The carbon Trust estimate that savings of between 5-10 per cent. can be achieved through the identification of waste through Smart metering.

These measures have resulted in the DEFRA and Executive Agency Estate achieving accreditation under the Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme (EEAS) in 2007. DEFRA also achieved the Carbon Trust Standard in 2008 for its office estate. Both these awards were independently assessed and confirm that the Department is improving its energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.

DEFRA is already exceeding the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) target for reducing carbon emissions from offices. Its ongoing programme of investment on efficiency measures will ensure that the Department is in the best possible position when Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) begins in 2012. In addition, a 15 year Sustainable Built Environment Workplace Support (SBEWS) delivery partnership with Interserve plc, will deliver significant efficiency improvements, not just in energy but across the entire range of SOGE targets.

The Department for Energy and Climate Change is currently leading work to define what is meant by carbon neutrality for Government and the private sector. Once this work is complete, Government will review the target for the central Government office estate to be carbon neutral by 2012 and the implications for departmental delivery.

The table represents the carbon emissions from DEFRA and its Executive agencies in 2007-08.

| *Organisation* | *Kg carbon (kgC)* |
|---|---|
| DEFRA | 2,211,042 |
| Animal Health | 4[illegible]217 |
| Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science | 1,025,533 |
| Food and Environment Research Agency (formerly Central Science Laboratory) | 4,112,740 |
| Marine and Fisheries Agency | 35,085 |
| Rural Payments Agency | 1,461,561 |
| Veterinary Laboratories Agency | 4,048,234 |
| Total | 13,371,413 |

*Note:*
The figures are not weather corrected.

### Departmental Communication

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure under the budget heading of communication his Department *(a)* incurred in 2007-08 and *(b)* is likely to incur in 2010-11; and for what purposes. [281263]

**Dan Norris:** For the financial year 2007-08 expenditure DEFRA incurred was as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Admin pay | 9,420,946 |
| Non pay | 3,062,882 |
| Programme | 7,830,244 |

For the financial year 2010-11 the budget is likely to be:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Admin pay | 5,799,750 |
| Admin non pay | 2,358,000 |
| Programme budget | 6,594,000 |

The programme budget for 2010-11 covers communications activity to support key policy areas such as biodiversity, resource efficiency, biosecurity, personal food imports, climate friendly farming and adaptation.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many breaches of information security there have been at *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [281093]

**Dan Norris:** Data on all types of information security breaches is not available centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Following the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008, my Department and its agencies report all significant security breaches involving personal data to the Cabinet Office and the ICO and information on personal data security breaches is published on an annual basis in the department's annual resource accounts.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

### Farming: Finance

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1056W, on dairy farming: finance, (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of obtaining the information requested; [281318]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on livestock: finance, what estimate he has made of the cost of obtaining the information requested. [281327]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** For historical reasons relating to the formation of the Rural Payments Agency, the data required to provide the information requested pursuant to the Answer of 12 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 1056W on dairy farming and column 1057W on livestock is held on three finance systems. The process to reconcile the information to provide accurate financial information in the form requested is resource intensive, time consuming and would cost more than £750 to collate.

### World Environment Day 2009

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what World Environment Day 2009 events his Department supported; at which events his Department was represented; and what steps his Department took to promote World Environment Day 2009. [278801]

**Dan Norris:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State was represented by Peter Unwin, Director General of DEFRA's Environment and Rural Group, at the opening of the new Three Mills Lock on World Environment Day. Three Mills Lock is a key piece of Olympic Park infrastructure and the largest mechanism of its kind built on London waterways for more than 20 years. It will help take lorries off local roads, reduce thousands of tonnes of $CO_2$ and ease local congestion. It will also provide a green freight route for the redevelopment of East London, and open up the waterways for boaters, walkers and cyclists. Secretary of State supplied some quotes for a British Waterways media release.

Lord Hunt attended the Basic 21 Sustainable School Awards, which took place at Austin Court, Birmingham and was part of a number of events to launch "Green Day" on World Environment Day. Green Day is a one-day event for schools about climate change, sustainability and the built environment, inviting 350 primary and secondary schools and nearly 100,000 pupils to become more sustainable in the run up to the UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen later this year.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has commissioned on the effect of academies on the academic performance of their pupils. [282630]

**Mr. Coaker:** In 2002, we commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to carry out a five year evaluation of the Academies programme, the core aim of which was to assess the effect of Academies on academic performance. Their fifth and final report was published in November 2008 and we are currently exploring the options for future evaluation of the programme.

The National Audit Office and the National Foundation for Education Research and the Local Government Association have also conducted studies of Academies. In addition, as with all schools, Academies are inspected by Ofsted and their reports are published as are the GCSE results for individual Academies.

The information we have tells us that in general, standards in Academies are rising at a faster rate than national average.

### Departmental Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on energy efficiency measures for his Department's and its predecessor's estate in each year from 2004 to 2009; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that expenditure; and what plans he has for future energy efficiency measures. [280549]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families spent £419,000 on energy efficiency measures on its estate in 2008-09.

While it is not possible to separate energy efficiency works from overall expenditure on refurbishment and renewal works in preceding years, the Department's overall energy efficiency improved by 3 per cent. between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

The Department is presently developing its investment programme for the current financial year and the effectiveness of any expenditure will be reported in the annual Sustainable Development in Government report.

### Departmental Waste

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the amount of waste arising from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 (i) in total and (ii) per full-time equivalent member of staff. [281014]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families makes an annual report to the Sustainable Development Commission on waste arising as part of their returns for the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report.

From the 2007 and 2008 SDiG Reports (available in full at

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/

under 'Publications') waste arising for the office estate was reported as *(a)* 1,918 tonnes in 2006-07 and *(b)* 2,678 tonnes in 2007-08 which equated to (aii) 0.32 tonnes per full-time equivalent and (bii) 0.39 tonnes per full-time equivalent.

### GCSE

**Mr. Osten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of students achieved a B grade at GCSE in each subject in each of the last three years. [282457]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The numbers of students achieving a Grade B at GCSE along with the total number of entries in each subject is contained in table 13 in each of the following links:

*2005/06:*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml

*2006/07:*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

*2007/08:*

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/index.shtml

### Head teachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of head teachers have been subject to disciplinary procedure in each of the last five years. [282442]

**Mr. Coaker:** The operation of disciplinary procedures in schools is a matter for local determination. Accordingly, the information requested about the proportion of head teachers who have been subject to disciplinary procedures over the last five years is not held centrally.

## Pupil Exclusions

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who were permanently excluded from a mainstream maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school were next placed in a (i) mainstream school and (ii) pupil referral unit in each year since 1997. [282641]

**Mr. Coaker:** The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Pupil Referral Units

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which pupil referral units in each local authority area are attended by more than *(a)* 50 and *(b)* 100 pupils. [282015]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information request is shown in the following table.

*Pupil referral units: headcount of pupils1—As at January 2008*

| LA number | LA name | School name | England Headcount of pupils |
|---|---|---|---|
| 330 | Birmingham | The Behaviour Support Service | >100 |
| 341 | Liverpool | Mill Road Pupil Referral Unit, Ipses Centre | >100 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | Solutions 4 | >100 |
| 209 | Lewisham | Abbey Manor College | >100 |
| 316 | Newham | Key Stage 4 PRU | >100 |
| 881 | Essex | Heybridge Pupil Referral Unit | >100 |
| 831 | Derby | Derby City Pupil Referral Unit | >100 |
| 380 | Bradford | Secondary Pupil Referral Unit | >100 |
| 391 | Newcastle | Linkspe PRU | >100 |
| 890 | Blackpool | Educational Diversity | >100 |
| 211 | Tower Hamlets | Out of School Provision PRU | >100 |
| 881 | Essex | Integrated Support Centre, Harlow | >100 |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire | Nottinghamshire Learning Centre | >100 |
| 307 | Ealing | The Study Centre | >100 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | Trinity Education Centre | >100 |
| 301 | Barking and Dagenham | Barking and Dagenham Tuition Service | >100 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | KS4 Support Centre | >100 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | Complementary Education | >100 |
| 305 | Bromley | Bromley Bridge for Learning | >100 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | Warwickshire Pupil Re-integration Unit | >100 |
| 204 | Hackney | The New Vision PRU at The Learning Trust | >100 |
| 926 | Norfolk | Central Area Pupil Referral Unit | >100 |
| 926 | Norfolk | Western Area Pupil Referral Unit | >100 |
| 205 | Hammersmith and Fulham | The Bridge Academy | >100 |
| 353 | Oldham | Oldham Pupil Referral Unit | >100 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | Cedars—Newcastle, Orme and Wall Lane Bases | >100 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | Oxfordshire Pupil Referral Unit and Integration Service | >100 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | The Wycombe Grange Pupil Referral Unit | >100 |
| 889 | Blackburn with Darwen | St. Thomas's Centre | >100 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | Gloucester and Forest Pupil Referral Services | >100 |
| 334 | Solihull | Hobe Moat Centre | >100 |
| 801 | City of Bristol | Bristol Hospital Education Service | >100 |
| 870 | Reading | Reading Pupil Referral Service | >100 |
| 856 | Leicester | Secondary Federated Pupil Referral Service (Short Stay School) | >100 |
| 874 | City of Peterborough | The Pupil Referral Service | >100 |
| 352 | Manchester | KS4PRU | >100 |
| 850 | Hampshire | Basingstoke School Plus | >100 |
| 841 | Darlington | Alternative Centre for Education | >100 |
| 313 | Hounslow | Wood Lane Centre | >50 |
| 212 | Wandsworth | Francis Barber Pupil Referral Unit | >50 |
| 883 | Thurrock | Culver Education Centre (Pupil Support) | >50 |
| 840 | Durham | Broom Cottages | >50 |
| 370 | Barnsley | Springwell Centre | >50 |
| 383 | Leeds | Tinshill Learning Centre | >50 |
| 879 | City of Plymouth | Martin's Gate Pupil Referral Unit | >50 |
| 340 | Knowsley | Newstead Centre | >50 |
| 886 | Kent | Ashford and Shepway Alternative Curriculum PRU | >50 |
| 354 | Rochdale | Rochdale Pupil Referral Service | >50 |
| 886 | Kent | Canterbury and Swale Alternative Curriculum PRU | >50 |
| 390 | Gateshead | Behaviour Support | >50 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | Greys Education Centre | >50 |
| 203 | Greenwich | Newhaven Pupil Referral Unit | >50 |

*Pupil referral units: headcount of pupils[1] — As at January 2008*

| LA number | LA name | School name | England Headcount of pupils |
|---|---|---|---|
| 892 | City of Nottingham | Alternative Provision PRU | >50 |
| 816 | York | Pupil Support Centre | >50 |
| 886 | Kent | Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks Alternative Curriculum PRU | >50 |
| 331 | Coventry | Centre 4 | >50 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | Student Support Service PRU | >50 |
| 866 | Swindon | Stratton Education Centre | >50 |
| 308 | Enfield | Enfield Secondary Tuition Centre | >50 |
| 886 | Kent | Dartford and Gravesham | >50 |
| 319 | Sutton | The Loxley Centre | >50 |
| 343 | Sefton | IMPACT KS4 PRU | >50 |
| 887 | Medway | Silverbank Centre | >50 |
| 306 | Croydon | Phil Edwards Centre | >50 |
| 888 | Lancashire | Larches House School | >50 |
| 311 | Havering | Havering KS4 PRU | >50 |
| 807 | Redcar and Cleveland | Eston Centre (EOTAS) | >50 |
| 208 | Lambeth | Park Centre | >50 |
| 926 | Norfolk | Eastern Area Pupil Referral Unit | >50 |
| 309 | Haringey | Haringey Pupil Referral Unit | >50 |
| 316 | Newham | Behaviour Support and Tuition Service | >50 |
| 356 | Stockport | The Secondary Behaviour Support Service | >50 |
| 886 | Kent | Thanet and Dover Alternative Curriculum PRU | >50 |
| 888 | Lancashire | Burnley and Pendle Centre | >50 |
| 206 | Islington | Project 16 | >50 |
| 302 | Barnet | Pavilion Study Centre | >50 |
| 304 | Brent | Brent Education Tuition Service | >50 |
| 306 | Croydon | The Coningsby Centre | >50 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Pupil Referral Services | >50 |
| 357 | Tameside | Hyde Pupil Referral Unit | >50 |
| 882 | Southend-on-Sea | Southend Pupil Referral Unit | >50 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | Kettlebrook Pupil Referral Unit | >50 |
| 894 | Telford and Wrekin | King Street | >50 |
| 344 | Wirral | WASP | >50 |
| 938 | West Sussex | Area C—Crawley/Burgess Hill | >50 |
| 938 | West Sussex | Area B—PRU Worthing | >50 |
| 210 | Southwark | Southwark Inclusive Learning Service KS3 Centre | >50 |
| 303 | Bexley | The Hawbury Centre Pupil Referral Unit | >50 |
| 935 | Suffolk | Westbridge Pupil Referral Unit | >50 |
| 371 | Doncaster | Hatthorpe Centre | >50 |
| 350 | Bolton | Starting Point | >50 |
| 371 | Doncaster | Beckett Road Centre | >50 |
| 850 | Hampshire | Quayside Education Centre | >50 |
| 207 | Kensington and Chelsea | Kensington and Chelsea Pupil Referral Unit at The Latimer Building | >50 |
| 333 | Sandwell | The Bridge Centre (KS4 Unit) | >50 |
| 871 | Slough | The Northbrook PRU | >50 |
| 306 | Croydon | Coulsdon/PRU co John Ruskin College | >50 |
| 336 | Wolverhampton | Midpoint Centre | >50 |
| 371 | Doncaster | Hospital and Interim Tuition Service | >50 |
| 393 | South Tyneside | Alternative Education Service co Perth Green Community Centre | >50 |
| 888 | Lancashire | The Oswaldtwistle School | >50 |
| 850 | Hampshire | The Linden Education Centre | >50 |
| 933 | Somerset | Alternative Provision Service | >50 |

[1] Includes pupils on the unit's register only and pupils who are on the unit's register and attend all or part of their time at a FE college or with a voluntary provider.

*Note:*
Excludes all dually registered pupils.

## Pupils: Health

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the experience in schools of children with long-term medical conditions. [281247]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Department has not commissioned any research into this subject. However, the Department is currently in the process of revising our guidance "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings". The new guidance will include clear statements of expectations of those involved in supporting pupils with medical conditions, such as schools and primary care trusts. Importantly, this work will be done in collaboration with the Department of Health and other expert organisations, such as Diabetes UK, and will also involve: lobby groups; school and head-teacher

representatives; as well as parents and children representatives. The new guidance will be subject to public consultation before being published early next year.

### Schools: Buildings

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the *(a)* requirement for and *(b)* cost of school building repairs in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in the next three years. [282066]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department relies on local authorities to assess the requirement for and cost of school building repairs as part of their asset management plans. It does not maintain central records, and allocates devolved capital resources to local authorities and schools on a formula basis, taking into account pupil numbers.

Capital funding, allocated by the Department and available locally, must be used to finance work which results in the enhancement of assets including new building. Revenue funding is used for work which maintains existing assets to their original state, although it can also be used for capital improvement work.

### Schools: Religion

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent guidance his Department has issued to schools on accommodating minority *(a)* religious and *(b)* cultural beliefs. [280484]

**Ms Diana R. Johnson:** The Government are committed to ensuring that pupils receive a balanced and inclusive curriculum and that schools take account of pupils' religious and cultural beliefs in all aspects of school life. The National Curriculum includes a detailed statutory inclusion statement, which sets out ways in which teachers should help all pupils to take part in the National Curriculum and to achieve the highest possible standards. Religious Education, which is a statutory part of the basic school curriculum, should be taught like any other subject in the curriculum, in an objective and inclusive way.

Schools are subject to equalities legislation and the Department advises that they should be sensitive to pupils' religious and cultural needs in developing their policies. For example, School Governors must ensure that their uniform and appearance policies are fair and reasonable in accommodating cultural diversity. The Department's procurement guidance encourages schools to take account of the needs of the local community, so that when writing a specification for a contract for school food, for example, the needs of minority ethnic, cultural and religious diets should be considered.

The School Admissions Code and related legislation, revised in February 2009, sets out a robust framework, clearly showing the statutory requirements that schools and local authorities must comply with to ensure fair access for all.

In order to prepare pupils for active participation in a diverse society the Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed a duty to promote community cohesion on the governing body of maintained schools in England from 1 September 2007, with guidance on the duty issued in July 2008.

### Standard Assessment Tests

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what representations he has received on changes to announced dates for Key Stage 2 standard assessment tests; and if he will make a statement; [281909]

(2) on what dates in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012 it is proposed to hold the Key Stage 2 standard assessment tests. [281926]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government have accepted the recommendation of the Expert Group on Assessment that the National Curriculum Key Stage 2 tests should be administered in the middle of June, rather than in May. This change will be introduced as soon as is practicable.

The dates of the 2010 tests will be confirmed to schools before the end of the summer term 2009. Arrangements for future years will be announced in due course.

## JUSTICE

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274501]

**Maria Eagle:** Expenditure on conference services by the Ministry of Justice, comprising headquarters and Executive agencies (the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian), since its inception is as follows:

| *Financial period* | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 5,875,035 |
| 2007-08 | 4,256,611 |

The amounts above exclude expenditure by the 42 local probation boards and trusts within NOMS as this information is held locally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry's predecessor Department, the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA), incurred the following expenditure on conference services:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 3,119,893 |
| 2005-06 | 3,235,327 |
| 2004-05 | 2,161,378 |

The DCA was a smaller department which did not include the National Offender Management Service or the Office for Criminal Justice Reform which were part of the Home Office prior to 2007-08.

The growth in expenditure on conferences reflects the increasingly cross-cutting nature of government policy. Conferences represent an effective mechanism for bringing together stakeholders in the government, private and voluntary sectors to promote a joined up approach to the delivery of front line services.

Bookings for conferences and related expenditure must be made through designated contractors employed by the Ministry of Justice to identify venues and accommodation that offers best value for money.

The Ministry of Justice and the Department for Constitutional Affairs have no record of any expenditure on banqueting services in the last five years.

### Probation

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many high-risk *(a)* male and *(b)* female offenders in each age group there were in the Hampshire probation area in each of the last five years. [281378]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table sets out the number of male and female offenders assessed by the Hampshire probation area as presenting a high or very high risk of serious harm. The assessment of risk of serious harm is made through the Offender Assessment System (OASys). Figures are presented for the past four years (2005-2008) as the electronic OASys system was still being implemented in 2004. The number of Hampshire assessments used to produce the figures increased from 4,822 in 2005 to 8,189 in 2008, reflecting an increase in the proportion of offenders entered onto the system as new cases join existing cases. The data are drawn from administrative IT systems and are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale assessment and recording system.

| *Age* | *Gender* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18-20 | Male | 46 | 42 | 62 | 68 |
| | Female | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 21-24 | Male | 40 | 62 | 79 | 112 |
| | Female | 6 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| 25-40 | Male | 125 | 128 | 205 | 321 |
| | Female | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11 |
| 41+ | Male | 65 | 94 | 150 | 233 |
| | Female | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 |

### Probation: West Midlands

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the net change in numbers of trained probation officers in West Mercia was between 2002 and 2007. [282642]

**Maria Eagle:** Prior to 2003, information was not collected that enabled the extraction of data for a specific probation area or job group. The following table shows the number of trained probation officers in West Mercia in 2003 and 2007 and the net change in numbers over that time:

| | *Probation officers*[2] |
|---|---|
| 2003[1] | 125.50 |
| 2007[1] | 153 |
| Net change | 27.49 |

Note:
Figures shown as full time equivalents.

Report, columns 21-24.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will assess the merits of transferring responsibility for tourism to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. [281275]

**The Prime Minister:** I have no current plans to do so.

### Electoral Systems

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to establish a Royal Commission to report and make recommendations on electoral reform; and if he will make a statement. [281775]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer my hon. Friend to the statement I made to the House on 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 795-99. The Government will set out proposals on taking the debate forward.

### European Commission

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what criteria he plans to use to decide on his next nominee for the post of European Commissioner; [281436]

(2) what criteria he plans to use in deciding on the UK's preferred candidate to be the next President of the European Commission. [281437]

**The Prime Minister:** The treaty establishing the European Community requires that Commissioners shall be chosen on the grounds of "general competence". The Prime Minister nominates a candidate to become the UK Commissioner who has the right skills to be able to do an excellent job as a Commissioner. I have made clear that the UK supports Jose Manuel Durao Barroso in his candidature to become European Commission President for a second term. Mr. Barroso has been an excellent Commission President since 2004.

### Iraq Conflict

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits to the United Kingdom of its participation in the Iraq war and occupation. [281454]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer my hon. Friend to the statement I made to the House on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-24.

### Iraq Conflict: Inquiries

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister whether the committee of inquiry into the Iraq war will be required to publish the oral and written evidence taken during its inquiry with the report of its findings. [280887]

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister what remuneration each member of the committee of inquiry into the Iraq war will receive; from which budget such remuneration will be drawn; and what secretariat will be provided for the committee. [280888]

**The Prime Minister:** The inquiry will be supported by the Cabinet Office.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister whether witnesses called to give evidence to the committee of inquiry on the Iraq war will be required to give evidence on oath. [280889]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to my letter of 17 June 2009 to the right hon. Sir John Chilcot GCB and to his reply of 21 June 2009. Copies of both have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Iraq: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what representations he received on the format and remit of the inquiry into the Iraq war before taking his decision on the committee of inquiry; and if he will make a statement; [281624]

(2) what criteria were used in the appointment of members to the committee of inquiry into the Iraq war; [281625]

(3) from whom he *(a)* sought and *(b)* received advice on the format of the inquiry into the invasion and occupation of Iraq. [282240]

**The Prime Minister:** The proposals were produced following advice from the Cabinet Secretary, who discussed the scope and membership of the inquiry with the main Opposition parties before my statement to the House on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-24. The members of the committee were selected as independent, non-political individuals, highly regarded professionally and personally, with relevant expertise in a range of issues.

### Iraq: Weapons

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Prime Minister what reports his Office received concluding that Iraq was not in possession of weapons of mass destruction in the two years prior to the start of the Iraq war; and if he will make a statement. [282216]

**The Prime Minister:** These matters were examined during the course of the Butler Review.

## HEALTH

### Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions on the grounds of rectifiable disabilities were performed after 24 weeks' gestation in 2008. [282224]

**Gillian Merron:** The number of abortions that are performed at 24 weeks' gestation and over by principal [illegible] Abortion Act 1967, as amended by section 37(3)(4) of

Abortions performed under this section are those where there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped. Medical conditions recorded under Section 1(1)(d) are coded using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (10th edition) published by the World Health Organisation.

*Legal abortions: principal medical condition for abortions performed under ground E, 2008 England and Wales, residents*

| *ICD-10 code*[1] | *Condition* | *Total* | *Over 24 weeks gestation* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total grounds E alone or with any other | | 1,988 | 124[2] |
| Q00-Q89 | Congenital malformations total | 956 | 85 |
| Q00-Q07 | the nervous system total | 477 | 42 |
| Q00 | anencephaly | 172 | [3]— |
| Q1 | encephalocele | 20 | [3]— |
| Q3 | hydrocephalus | 33 | [3]— |
| Q4 | other malformations of the brain | 75 | 21 |
| Q05 | spina bifida | 118 | [3]— |
| Q02,Q06, Q07 | other | 59 | 11 |
| Q10-Q89 | other congenital malformations total | 479 | 43 |
| Q20-Q28 | the cardiovascular system | 124 | 17 |
| Q30-Q34 | the respiratory system | 10 | [3]— |
| Q60-Q64 | the urinary system | 101 | 14 |
| Q65-Q79 | the musculoskeletal system | 147 | [3]— |
| Q10-Q18, Q35-Q56, Q80-Q89 | other | 97 | [3]— |
| Q90-Q99 | Chromosomal abnormalities total | 739 | 27 |
| Q90 | Down's syndrome | 436 | [3]— |
| Q910-Q913 | Edwards' syndrome143 | 143 | [3]— |
| Q914-Q917 | Patau's syndrome | 61 | [3]— |
| Q92-Q99 | other | 99 | [3]— |
| | Other conditions total | 293 | 12 |
| P00-P04 | fetus affected by maternal factors | 99 | [3]— |
| P05-P08 | fetal disorders relating to gestation and growth | 15 | [3]— |
| P832-P833 | hydrops fetalis not due to | 27 | [3]— |

[illegible]

*Legal abortions: principal medical condition for abortions performed under ground E, 2008 England and Wales, residents*

| ICD-10 code[1] | Condition | Total | Over 24 weeks gestation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Other[4] | 12 | [3] |

[1] ICD-10 codes are taken from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (Tenth Revision) published by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Figures for specific groups shown only where there are 10 or more cases in total
[2] Over 24 week total includes abortions carried out under grounds A, B, F or G.
[3] Fewer than 10 cases (0-9) or where a presented figure would reveal a suppressed value.
[4] Includes cases where insufficient detail was available to allocate an ICD10 code.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1473W, on abortion, how many abortions were performed in pregnancies of 24 weeks or more in 2008. [282251]

**Gillian Merron:** There were 124 abortions performed at gestations of 24 weeks or over in 2008.

### Blood Products

**Mr. Geoffrey Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will direct the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs to expedite its consideration of the adoption of pathogen inactivation measures; and if he will make a statement. [282150]

**Gillian Merron:** The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs is an independent advisory committee. Pathogen inactivation is one of the options the committee will consider for further reducing the infection risk from platelets (a blood component) at its next meeting in July 2009. There are no pathogen inactivation systems currently available for red cells.

### Carers: Telephone Services

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls the Carers Direct helpline has received since it was established. [282448]

**Phil Hope:** The Carers Direct Helpline and website was officially launched on 10 June 2009. Between 1 April 2009 (go-live) and 21 June 2009, 2,052 calls have been received.

### Dementia: Health Services

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of standards of out-of-hospital *(a)* palliative and *(b)* dementia care for elderly patients in (i) England, (ii) Merseyside and (iii) Crosby; and if he will make a statement. [282525]

**Phil Hope:** As part of the work to develop the end of life care strategy and the national dementia strategy, evidence was considered on all aspects of end of life care, including palliative care, services and dementia care services for adults in England as a whole, irrespective of [illegible]. The [illegible] of this work is reflected in the two

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_086277

and

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094058

We have made no assessment of the standards of out-of-hospital end of life care or dementia care for elderly patients in Merseyside or Crosby. This is the responsibility of local primary care trusts and Sefton council.

### Dental Services: Derbyshire

**Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of dental services in Derbyshire. [282449]

**Phil Hope:** The numbers of courses of treatments (CoTs) and units of dental activity (UDAs) performed by national health service dentists, in England, are available in Table C6 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3, 31 December 2008" report. Information is available for 2006-07 and quarterly since 2007-08.

Information on the number of patients seen in the most recent 24-month period is available in Table D3 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England, Quarter 3, 31 December 2008" report. Information is provided at quarterly intervals from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2008.

This report, published on 21 May 2009, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q3

Information for the first three quarters of 2008-09 remain provisional as they are revised in each subsequent report to account for treatments reported too late for inclusion in the previous quarterly report. In the end of year report, published in the August following the end of the financial year, all quarterly activity data are revised for a final time.

Further information on CoTs and UDAs is contained in the above report.

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08" report. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Workforce figures relate to headcounts and do not

[illegible]

Information in both reports is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) but is not available by constituency. They are based on the PCT boundaries which came into effect on 1 October 2006.

All 10 SHAs have set themselves the aim of providing access to NHS dentistry for all who seek it by March 2011 at the latest.

We are supporting PCTs to meet this aim with extra resources—an 11 per cent. uplift in our dental funding allocations for 2008-09, and a further 8.5 per cent. uplift in total funds for 2009-10, which takes the total available for dental allocations to £2,257 million (net of patient charge income).

We have also set up an expanded national dental access programme, headed by Dr. Mike Warburton, an experienced clinician and manager, to support managers and clinicians to rapidly expand services where needed.

The report of the Independent Review of Dentistry in England NHS Dental Services in England, published on 22 June 2009, recommends a series of further actions to support access and quality. A copy has already been placed in the Library. Piloting of the recommendations will begin from this autumn.

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children without access to an NHS dentist in (i) England and (ii) Rochford and Southend East constituency in each year since 1997. [282678]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to assess local need and demand for national health services dental services and commission the appropriate services.

However, information is available on the number of patients registered with an NHS dentist, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 in annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided adults and children, and PCT and by strategic health authority (SHA) level where appropriate.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS information centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period.

Information on the number of patients seen in the previous 24 months in England is available in table D1 annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 3: 31 December 2008" report. Information is provided by adults and children and is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2008. This data are also provided at PCT and SHA level.

This report has already been placed in the Library.

All 10 SHAs have set themselves the aim of providing access to NHS dentistry for all who seek it by March 2011 at the latest. We are supporting PCTs to meet this aim with extra resources—an 11 per cent. uplift in our dental funding allocations for 2008-09, and a further 8.5 per cent. uplift in total funds for 2009-10, which takes the total available for dental allocations to £2,257 million (net of patient charge income).

We have also set up an expanded national dental access programme, headed by Dr. Mike Warburton an experienced clinician and manager, to support managers and clinicians to rapidly expand services where needed.

"NHS dental service in England: An independent review led by Professor Jimmy Steele", published on 22 June 2009 recommends a series of further actions to support access and quality. Piloting of the recommendations will begin from this autumn. This report has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_101137

### Muscular Dystrophy: Medical Treatments

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will reintroduce Government funding for UK MDEX trials researching treatments for muscular dystrophy. [282456]

**Gillian Merron:** The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research and of the Medical Research Council (MRC) is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics. Research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Both organisations welcome applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals submitted.

The researchers who lead the MDEX Consortium have received funding from the Department and the MRC. They are aware of the public funding routes open to them and how to apply for support for any proposals they have for further research.

### Swine Flu

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to primary health care providers on testing of people who think they may have been exposed to the swine influenza virus in cases where an outbreak of the disease has been confirmed; and if he will make a statement. [282458]

**Gillian Merron:** The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has published swine flu guidance for health care professionals on its website. This guidance is regularly updated. A copy of the most recent advice has been placed in the Library.

The HPA has also provided general practitioners (GPs) with algorithms for identifying suspected cases of swine flu in their patients. A copy of the algorithm has also been placed in the Library. If a GP suspects a

The HPA also offers front line clinicians, including GPs or emergency department doctors, direct clinical advice by phone via local flu response centres.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Delivering Better Skills for Better Places Programme

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been allocated to the Delivering Better Skills for Better Places programme in each of the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [282644]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The "Delivering Better Skills for Better Places" action plan was launched by the Housing Minister, John Healey, at the Chartered Institute of Housing Conference on 16 June. The HCA (Homes and Communities Agency) Academy has led this work, with participation and support from over 20 different organisations across the sustainable communities sector. These bodies represent professions integral to successful place-making: regeneration, housing, planning, construction, economic development, architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, local government, property, surveying, civil engineering and sustainability. The action plan will build on many of the successful projects and national, regional and local initiatives already under way by some of the partner organisations. It aims to ensure alignment between these initiatives and available resources to deliver the objectives of the action plan. Each partner has been working towards similar ambitions and "Delivering Better Skills for Better Places" combines these energies. Such a co-ordinated approach (for example to recruitment and retention across the sector) has been designed to achieve better outcomes.

The main aims of the action plan are to:

Attract new entrants and retain existing people in the core professions.

Develop generic skills in areas like tow carbon, climate change, empowerment, community cohesion, risk sharing, negotiation, process re-modelling, place leadership and partnership working.

Ensure technical and specialist skills like planning, urban design and skills for changing economic markets are updated in line with new processes, standards, legislation and economic conditions.

The HCA Academy has allocated £240,000 in each of the next two years to take forward this programme. This allocation will fund detailed research to give an up-to-date and comprehensive picture of employment flows in and out of the sector, and to measure skills gaps so that future actions can be better planned. Other areas of work that will be covered by this funding include development and delivery of training programmes in generic skills (eg cohesion; addressing the downturn) and opening up career progression and entry routes across the professions. Full details of the action plan are available on the HCA Academy website at

www.hcaacademy.co.uk/betterplaces

### Housing Revenue Accounts

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount of Housing Revenue Account

**Mr. Ian Austin:** No such estimates have been made. Consultation on the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Determination for 2010-11 will commence at the end of October 2009.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from the National Affordable Housing Programme was allocated to each region in each of the last 12 quarters. [282645]

**Mr. Ian Austin:** The Homes and Communities Agency and formerly the Housing Corporation publish the regional allocation statements on their websites. These provide information on allocations made by region and by quarter for the 2008-09 Affordable Housing Programme.

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/inyourarea

http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/server/show/nav.394

Regional allocation statements for Affordable Housing Programme for previous financial years are also available on the Housing Corporation website.

### Repossessions Prevention Fund

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has provided to Bassetlaw local authority to provide small loans for householders facing serious mortgage arrears; and what terms and conditions apply to such loans. [282455]

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to each local authority under the Repossessions Prevention Fund. [282388]

**John Healey:** Allocations have been made to local authorities from the Preventing Repossessions Fund based on population and levels of repossession activity. A list of allocations to individual authorities has been placed in the House Library.

The fund enables local authorities to extend small interest-free loans of up to £5,000 to families at risk of homelessness through repossession or eviction. Detailed terms are set at local level.

In the current economic conditions, we have acted rapidly to put in place help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage: from free debt advice when problems start, to free support for cases that reach court. Advice is available to all households struggling with their mortgage, with targeted schemes for those in most need.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column

of experts from different disciplines to look at the subtypes and causes of myalgic encephalomyelitis/ chronic fatigue syndrome. [281820]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Medical Research Council (MRC) set up in 2008 a panel of experts from different disciplines to look more closely at chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME). The group is reviewing the current research and will identify additional opportunities with the aim of stimulating further research into CFS/ME, in particular focusing on the causes of the condition. The MRC hopes that this will encourage new research towards understanding the aetiology and subtypes of CFS/ME and lead to an advancement of knowledge in this field and the development of new therapeutic approaches.

### Higher Education: Merseyside

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of 18 to 25 year olds resident in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby were in higher education (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the latest date for which information is available. [282527]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Government do not collect data on the number of adults resident in a particular area who are not in higher education, so it is not possible to calculate the proportion of 18 to 25 year-olds from Merseyside and Crosby who were in higher education in any given year.

The number of 18 to 25 year-old students from Merseyside and Crosby who were enrolled in higher education are shown as an alternative in the following table. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

*'18-25 year old enrolments[1] from Merseyside and Crosby constituency[2] UK higher education institutions*

| *Academic year* | *Merseyside* | *Crosby* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 18,290 | 1,545 |
| 2007-08 | 24,345 | 1,885 |

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.
[2] Parliamentary constituency are defined by full and valid home postcodes recorded on the HESA student record.
*Note:*
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

### Learning and Skills Council: Pay

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Learning and Skills Council in each of the last five years. [280605]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department does not hold this level of information. The Learning and Skills Council makes decisions about the payment of bonuses based upon its own business needs. Geoff Russell, the Council's acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman

### Low Pay

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what data *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Low Pay Commission collects on the living costs of those aged (i) over 21 years and (ii) 21 years and under. [281602]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 22 June 2009]:* The National Minimum Wage (NMW) is a key part of the Government's wider strategy for achieving a fair minimum income from work. The aim of the Low Pay Commission (LPC) is to have a NMW that helps as many low paid workers as possible without having an adverse impact on inflation or employment. Neither the Department nor the LPC collects data on living costs as decisions on NMW rates take account of their effect on employment, inflation and competitiveness, not on living costs. Other measures for alleviating poverty such as tax credits take account of an individual's circumstances.

### Students: Loans

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department's predecessor took legal advice on the decision to fix the interest rates on post-1998 student loans at zero per cent. for 2009-10. [282226]

**Mr. Lammy:** Yes. The advice was based on the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 and the regulations made under it.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Legal Opinion

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Solicitor-General whether it is her policy to request an update of legal advice to Government in circumstances where the evidence was not made available to the Law Officer giving the advice at the time. [268626]

**The Solicitor-General:** A Government Department seeking Law Officers' advice is responsible for providing all the relevant information necessary for dealing with the request. If, after such advice has been given, a Law Officer becomes aware of further relevant information which may affect the substance of the advice the Attorney-General's Office will raise this with the department and the Law Officers may reconsider the advice.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Energy: Housing

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in rural areas of Ribble Valley constituency have received assistance from his Department and its predecessors to meet or reduce fuel and heating costs in each of the last five years. [278578]

**Mr. Kidney:** The following table indicates the number of households in the rural areas of Ribble Valley that have received heating and insulation measures under the current phase of the Warm Front scheme (since

*Ribble Valley, rural areas*

| | Heating | Insulation | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 14 | 131 | 145 |
| 2005-06 | 21 | 80 | 101 |
| 2006-07 | 83 | 81 | 164 |
| 2007-08 | 84 | 116 | 200 |
| 2008-09 | 65 | 99 | 164 |
| Total | 267 | 507 | 774 |

## Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average sum agreed in settlement was for *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims submitted by the 10 solicitors firms with the greatest number of claims for each condition under the Coal Miners Compensation Scheme. [282810]

**Mr. Kidney:** The average settlement for Vibration White Finger (VWF) and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) by the 10 claimants' representatives who have submitted the greatest number of claims is shown in the following tables as at 21 June 2009.

*COPD*

| Solicitor | Total claims | Total claims settled by payment | Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beresfords Solicitors | 80,817 | 62,425 | 2,559 |
| Thompsons Solicitors | 58,133 | 45,600 | 9,202 |
| Hugh James | 56,811 | 42,214 | 7,261 |
| Raleys Solicitors | 48,914 | 35,591 | 5,990 |
| Browell Smith and Co | 32,998 | 24,962 | 6,538 |
| Avalon Solicitors | 32,413 | 19,354 | 2,375 |
| Mark Gilbert Morse | 25,721 | 20,641 | 7,535 |
| Union of Democratic Mineworkers | 16,586 | 13,794 | 3,097 |
| Barber and Co | 14,090 | 11,494 | 2,832 |
| Watson Burton LLP | 14,072 | 12,482 | 4,346 |

*VWF*

| Solicitor | Total claims | Total claims settled by payment | Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thompsons Solicitors | 21,231 | 16,997 | 16,379 |
| Browell Smith and Co | 16,462 | 11,957 | 10,854 |
| Beresfords Solicitors | 11,619 | 7,251 | 10,399 |
| Union of Democratic Mineworkers | 11,520 | 9,946 | 10,607 |
| Raleys Solicitors | 11,279 | 9,968 | 12,405 |
| Hugh James | 10,637 | 8,552 | 11,319 |
| Graysons Solicitors | 8,700 | 7,201 | 15,537 |
| Moss Solicitors | 7,398 | 5,031 | 10,514 |
| Watson Burton LLP | 5,935 | 5,066 | 17,106 |
| Towells Solicitors | 5,368 | 4,219 | 12,468 |

## Renewable Energy: Waste

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has made an assessment of the competitiveness of the British renewable energy sector specialising in the combustion of end-of-waste products manufactured

**Mr. Kidney:** We have not made a specific assessment of the competitiveness of renewable energy from used cooking oil. However, we have taken steps to increase the overall competitiveness of renewable technologies in Britain. The Renewables Obligation supports electricity generation from renewable sources. Used cooking oil can receive up to the maximum level of support of two ROCs per MWh.

## Wind Power: East of England

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department have allocated for the encouragement of wind power usage in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [278861]

**Mr. Kidney:** Electricity generated by wind power is eligible for support through the renewables obligation (RO), which was introduced in 2002. As of 1 April 2009, onshore wind is eligible for one renewables obligation certificate (ROC) per MWh of electricity generated, and offshore wind is eligible for 1.5 ROCs/MWh. Whilst we do not maintain data on the number of ROCs claimed per constituency or region, a full register of the number of ROCs claimed by each accredited station can be viewed online at:

https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportManager.aspx?ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=0.

The RO is the successor scheme to the non fossil fuels obligation (NFFO) which supports some onshore wind sites in Eastern England. Levels of support and detail of eligible NFFO sites can be found at

http://www.nfpa.co.uk/summary.html

Round 1 offshore wind demonstration projects were eligible for grants under the Offshore Wind Capital Grants Scheme, and offshore farms in the East of England region have been awarded funding through this as follows:

*Spend by financial year*

*£ million*

| | Project | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Scroby Sands | Inner Dowsing | Lynn Offshore |
| 2004-05 | 7.5 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2005-06 | 2.3 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2006-07 | 0.10 | 6.50 | 6.50 |
| 2007-08 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2008-09 | 0.00 | 3.20 | 3.20 |
| 2009-10 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.10 |
| 2010-11 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.10 |
| 2011-12 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.10 |

Under the Clear Skies Scheme, which ran from 2003 to 2007, £71,900 was spent on micro wind installations for householders in the East of England region. We do not have the figure for spend on community-scale installations on a regional basis under this scheme.

The amount of funding that has been allocated under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme for the encouragement of wind power usage in *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England

*Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1—wind power allocation*[1]

£

| | Grant amount | Paid amount |
|---|---|---|
| *Householders* | | |
| *2006-07* | | |
| East of England | 155,477.18 | 36,615.14 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *2007-08* | | |
| East of England | 15,069.40 | 133,532.02 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *2008-09* | | |
| East of England | 40,000.00 | 20,000.00 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *2009-10* | | |
| East of England | 5,568.50 | 10,000.00 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *Communities* | | |
| *2006-07* | | |
| East of England | 67,708.93 | 0.00 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *2007-08* | | |
| East of England | 0.00 | 21,179.45 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *2008-09* | | |
| East of England | 0.00 | 26,472.69 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *2009-10* | | |
| East of England | 0.00 | 15,707.94 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *Stream 2a* | | |
| *2007-08* | | |
| East of England | 104,829.65 | 0.00 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *2008-09* | | |
| East of England | 0.00 | 10,297.65 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| *Stream 2b* | | |
| *2007-08* | | |
| East of England | 133,456.50 | 0.00 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |

[1] Shows only committed grants—ie does not included expired, withdrawn or rejected applications.

*Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2*

| *East of England* | *Number of projects* | *Total value of grant (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 19 | 271,082.78 |
| 2008-09 | 1 | 15,831.61 |

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Crime

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 185W, on crime, when he expects incident data for 2008-09 to be available. [281836]

**Alan Johnson:** Data sets for incidents as defined within the National Incident Category List (NICL) are now available for 2008-09 and are provided in the table. NICL is subject to annual review and amendment, when some categories may be deleted or revised, or new ones created. The data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications.

*The national incident category list (NICL)*

*Transport:*

Road Traffic Collision (RTC)—Death
RTC—Serious Injury
RTC—Minor Injury
RTC—Damage Only
Highway Disruption
Road Related Offence
Rail/Air/Marine Incident Not Recorded Elsewhere

*Antisocial Behaviour:*

Abandoned Vehicles—(Not Stolen Or Causing An Obstruction)
Animal Problems
Begging/Vagrancy
Hoax Calls To Emergency Services
Inappropriate Use/Sale/Possession Of Fireworks
Malicious/Nuisance Communications
Noise
Prostitution/Related Activity
Rowdy/Nuisance—Environmental Damage / Littering
Rowdy/Nuisance—Neighbours
Rowdy/Nuisance—Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour
Street Drinking
Solvent Misuse
Trespass
Vehicle Nuisance/Inappropriate Vehicle Use

*Public Safety/Welfare:*

Abandoned Call
Absconder/AWOL
Alarm: Monitoring Station—False-Active
Alarm: Monitoring Station—False-Withdrawn
Alarm: Police Installed
Alarm: Premises Audible only
Breach Of Injunction/Court Order
Civil Disputes
Collapse/Illness/Injury/Trapped
Concern for Safety
Domestic Incident
Firearms
Immigration
Industrial Incident/Accident

Licensing
Missing Person-High Risk
Missing Person-Medium Risk
Missing Person-Low Risk
Missing Person-Unauthorised Absence
Natural Disaster/Incident/Warning
Pets/Domesticated Animals
Protest/Demonstration/
Sudden Death
*Public Safety/Welfare:*
Suspicious Circumstances
Suspicious Package/Object
Truancy
Wildlife
*Administration:*
Bail/Curfew: Checks/Breach/Wanted Person
Cancel/Exit/Error
Complaints Against Police
Contact Record
Duplicate
Lost/Found Property/Found Person
Messages
Police Generated Resource Activity
Pre-Planned Events
Test/Training
*Qualifiers:*
*Hate/discrimination:*
Racial
Religion
Disability
Sexual Orientation
Transgender
*Qualifiers:*
*Other characteristics:*
Alcohol
Assistance to Other Public Agency
Call Made with Good Intent
Cold Calling
Critical Incident
Other Intoxicants
Domestic Abuse
Drugs
Firearms
Information Only
Major Incident
Mental Health
Other Public Agency/Police Force Dealing
Persistent Caller
Weapons
Vulnerable Child/Young Person
Youth Related age under 10
Youth Related age 10 to 17 years

### Offenders: Deportation

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were deported in each of the last 10 years.

**Alan Johnson:** The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide them with all the most robust and accurate information available. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

### Police Community Support Officers: Clothing

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each representation he has received on the issuing of stab-proof vests for police community support officers since their introduction; [279067]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between Ministers and the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police in relation to the issuing of stab-proof vests for police community support officers since January 2007; [279068]

(3) whether he plans to ensure that all police community support officers are issued with stab-proof vests; and if he will make a statement; [279108]

(4) what advice the Home Office Scientific Development Branch has given to police forces on the issuing of stab-proof vests for police community support officers, with particular reference to the West Midlands Police authority area; [279109]

(5) what response he has made to the request to his Department from Unison to provide police community support officers with stab-proof vests; [279110]

(6) when he expects next to meet the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police to discuss the issuing of stab-proof vests for police community support officers; and if he will make a statement. [279112]

**Mr. Hanson** *[holding answer 12 June 2009]:* The provision of police equipment is an operational matter for chief officers informed by standards on protective equipment developed and published by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB). HOSDB develop and publish standards for a range of protective equipment for the police and advises police forces and the Government on protective equipment for police use (including PCSOs), ensuring that officers have the equipment they need to protect themselves and the public. The Home Office wrote to those forces who did not issue protective armour to community support officers to ask for clarification on their decisions. Those forces, including West Midlands Police, provided full responses which the Home Office forwarded to the right hon. Gentleman on 27 July 2007. The correspondence relating to West Midlands Police will be placed in the Library as requested.

### Terrorism

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have undertaken Project Argus training. [281968]

**Alan Johnson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 609W.

### Theft: Motor Vehicles

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to police forces on responses to incidents of theft of a vehicle with a payload of oil, gas or petrol; whether each police force uses the same procedures in such instances; and if he will make a statement. [281959]

**Alan Johnson:** The Home Office has issued no guidance to police forces on the specific issue of responses to incidents of theft of a vehicle with a pay load of oil, gas or petrol. The National Police Improvement Agency has not issued central guidance to forces on this specific matter, and it is for forces to determine appropriate procedures locally.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Demos

**Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279495]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office has no contracts with the think-tank Demos.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [273888]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows the Northern Ireland Office's expenditure, excluding Agencies and Executive NDPBs, on hospitality in the last five years:

*Hospitality*

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 190 |
| 2007-08 | 124 |
| 2006-07 | 124 |
| 2005-06 | 88 |
| 2004-05 | 108 |

Due to the high volume of transactions within these expenditure areas it would only be possible to extract entertainment costs at disproportionate cost.

Hospitality events include receptions hosted at Hillsborough Castle, which acknowledge the contribution made by a wide range of people to life in Northern Ireland. These include representatives from the voluntary and business sectors and also the police and armed forces (including those returning from active service in Afghanistan), in recognition of their enormous contributions to Northern Ireland Society.

### Departmental Press Subscriptions

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what newspapers are delivered to the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [279346]

**Mr. Woodward:** I receive the following newspapers:

*Daily Telegraph*
*Daily Mirror*
*Daily Express*
*Daily Mail*
*The Guardian*
*The Independent*
*The Times*
*Irish Independent*
*The Sun,*
*Daily Star*
*Financial Times*
*Irish News*
*Irish Times*
*Belfast Newsletter*
*Belfast Telegraph: AM*
*Belfast Telegraph: PM*
*Evening Standard (1st Edition)*

Total cost per week: £105.87

The Minister of State receives the following newspapers:

*Daily Telegraph*
*The Guardian*
*Financial Times*
*The Sun*
*Daily Mail*
*The Times*
*The Independent*
*Irish Times*
*Belfast Newsletter*
*Irish News*
*Belfast Telegraph PM*

Total cost per week: £55.01

The cost is for newspapers both in Belfast and London as Ministers use both locations.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Africa: Conflict Resolution

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made towards meeting the G8 pledge to train 20,000 African peacekeepers. [281961]

**Mr. Thomas:** The pledge by G8 countries at Gleneagles in 2005 to train 20,000 peacekeepers in Africa has been exceeded.

### Departmental Food

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of the *(a)* meat, *(b)* fruit and *(c)* vegetables procured by his Department in the last 12 months was produced in the UK. [281940]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** A second report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service was published in November 2008,

covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report and the first one covering the previous year can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

The report gives details of the proportion of individual meat, fruit and vegetable categories purchased. The overall percentage of domestically produced food for the Department for International Development was 55 per cent.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Wednesday 17 June 2009*

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Social Security Benefits: Fraud

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of potential fraud were investigated where the Department considered there to be a high probability of prosecution in each of the last five years for which information is available; how many cases of potential fraud were taken to court; and how many cases achieved a conviction. [244731]

*[Official Report, 21 May 2009, Vol. 492, c. 1526W.]*

*Letter of correction from Jim Knight:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 21 May 2009.

In the original second table, the figure given for the number of prosecutions for housing benefit fraud in 2005-06 was incorrectly cited as 6,041. The revised answer also contains an additional footnote relating to housing benefit.

The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information for DWP administered benefits is in the following table.

| | *Number of cases referred for prosecution* | *Number prosecuted*[1] | *Number of convictions* | *Number of cases taken to court that accepted an alternative sanction* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 10,048 | 10,358 | 9,027 | n/a |
| 2004-05 | 10,915 | 10,295 | 9,219 | 261 |
| 2005-06 | 9,814 | 10,262 | 8,740 | 170 |
| 2006-07 | 10,166 | 8,964 | 6,861 | 206 |
| 2007-08 | 10,288 | 10,274 | 7,745 | 278 |

n/a = Not available

*Notes:*

1. All cases for criminal investigation are taken forward as having the potential to result in prosecution; alternative sanctions of caution and administrative penalty are only offered on the basis that, if refused, prosecution remains an option for the Department. Decisions on whether a sanction and which type is appropriate are, rightly, only made when an investigation has been completed.
2. The number of cases prosecuted each year may exceed the number of cases referred for prosecution due to the length of time that can occur between referral and an available court date.

*Sources:*

1. Prosecution and conviction data for England and Wales from DWP/DH Legal Group
2. Number of cases taken to court that accepted an alternative sanction (England and Wales only) from DWP/DH Legal Group
3. Prosecution and conviction data for Scotland from FIBS and FRAIMS
4. Number of cased referred for prosecution, administrative penalties and cautions data from FIBS and FRAIMS

Additionally figures for housing benefit are as follows:

| | *Prosecutions* | *Convictions* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 4,601 | 3,747 |
| 2004-05 | 5,548 | 4,688 |
| 2005-06 | 7,717 | 6,234 |
| 2006-07 | 6,023 | 5,860 |
| 2007-08 | 6,611 | 6,493 |

*Notes:*

1. The decision to prosecute is taken by the appropriate local authority.
2. Figures from HOBOD are subject to revision when new or revised data are received from local authorities and uploaded by the Department.

*Source:*

Housing Benefits Operational Database (HOBOD) using local authority housing benefit administrative returns

# Ministerial Corrections

*Tuesday 23 June 2009*

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Prison Service: Misconduct

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prison officers have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed on grounds of gross misconduct in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [277750]

*[Official Report, 9 June 2009, Vol. 493, c. 833W.]*

*Letter of correction from Paul Goggins:*

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for North Down (Lady Hermon) on 9 June 2009 on prison officer misconduct. It has come to my attention that the figure provided by the Prison Service omitted one suspension from the 2008 figures. The total suspensions for that year should read 18, i.e. 17 for neglect of duty and one for an inappropriate relationship with a prisoner.

The correct answer is as follows:

**Paul Goggins:** The table shows the number of prison officers who have been (a) suspended and (b) dismissed on grounds of misconduct in the last three years for the reasons stated—

| | *Action* | *Misconduct* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 4 suspensions | 1 harassment |
| | | 2 PSNI criminal investigations |
| | | 1 fraudulent activity involving expenses |
| | 3 dismissals | 1 failure to provide relevant information on security form |
| | | 2 subject to criminal proceedings |
| 2007 | 2 suspensions | 1 interfered with prisoner's confidential correspondence |
| | | 1 fraudulent activity involving a prisoner |
| | 2 dismissals | 1 harassment |
| | | 1 fraudulent activity involving a prisoner |
| 2008 | 18 suspensions | 17 neglect of duty |
| | | 1 inappropriate relationship with a prisoner |
| | 2 dismissals | 1 interfered with prisoner's confidential correspondence |
| | | 1 inappropriate relationship with a prisoner |

# Ministerial Correction

*Friday 26 June 2009*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Regional Government: Manpower

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each regional Government office in each year from 2001-02 to 2008-09. [278696]

*[Official Report, 12 June 2009, Vol. 493, c. 1064-67W.]*

*Letter of correction from Ms Rosie Winterton:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 12 June 2009. The figure cited for the number of executive officers/administrative assistants (executive and administrative support) in the Government office for the South East for the year 2006-07 was incorrect. The correct answer is as follows:

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Each of the nine Government offices in the English regions are led by a regional director who is supported by deputy regional directors and mainstream civil servants working in grades from grade 6 to administrative assistant. Consequently the figures quantify staff numbers by those grades.

Prior to 2003 the personnel management arrangements for senior civil service staff (regional directors and deputy regional directors) working within the network were the responsibility of their employing departments. Consequently GO network records are not available prior to 2003.

Based upon staff in post figures GO staff, including fixed term appointments, casual employees and those staff temporarily away from the office (eg on maternity leave or career break) in April of each year specified, the table below gives the figures requested.

| *Government office* | | *Regional directors* | *Deputy regional directors (senior management)* | *Grade 6—higher executive officer (specialist and delivery managers)* | *Executive officer—admin asst (executive and administrative support)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 2001-02 | 1 | [—] | 86 | 102 |
| | 2002-03 | 1 | [—] | 86 | 115 |
| | 2003-04 | 1 | 5 | 123 | 121 |
| | 2004-05 | 1 | 6 | 142 | 143 |
| | 2005-06 | 1 | 4 | 144 | 135 |
| | 2006-07 | 1 | 4 | 152 | 115 |
| | 2007-08 | 1 | 4 | 141 | 75 |
| | 2008-09 | 1 | 5 | 144 | 50 |
| East Midlands | 2001-02 | 1 | [—] | 91 | 139 |
| | 2002-03 | 1 | [—] | 113 | 137 |
| | 2003-04 | 1 | 4 | 133 | 150 |
| | 2004-05 | 1 | 5 | 158 | 148 |
| | 2005-06 | 1 | 3 | 160 | 135 |
| | 2006-07 | 1 | 4 | 146 | 120 |
| | 2007-08 | 1 | 7 | 124 | 87 |
| | 2008-09 | 1 | 7 | 119 | 77 |
| London | 2001-02 | 1 | [—] | 158 | 153 |
| | 2002-03 | 1 | [—] | 162 | 140 |
| | 2003-04 | 1 | 8 | 199 | 142 |
| | 2004-05 | 1 | 8 | 235 | 133 |
| | 2005-06 | 1 | 9 | 208 | 122 |
| | 2006-07 | 1 | 9 | 177 | 102 |
| | 2007-08 | 1 | 9 | 157 | 77 |
| | 2008-09 | 1 | 8 | 157 | 77 |
| North East | 2001-02 | 1 | [—] | 102 | 160 |
| | 2002-03 | 1 | [—] | 115 | 175 |
| | 2003-04 | 1 | 3 | 122 | 182 |
| | 2004-05 | 1 | 5 | 147 | 191 |
| | 2005-06 | 1 | 5 | 156 | 174 |

| *Government office* | | *Regional directors* | *Deputy regional directors (senior management)* | *Grade 6—higher executive officer (specialist and delivery managers)* | *Executive officer—admin asst (executive and administrative support)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2006-07 | 1 | 3 | 137 | 169 |
| | 2007-08 | 1 | 6 | 129 | 124 |
| | 2008-09 | 1 | 6 | 134 | 101 |
| North West | 2001-02 | 1 | [1] | 148 | 240 |
| | 2002-03 | 1 | [1] | 115 | 217 |
| | 2003-04 | 1 | 5 | 162 | 208 |
| | 2004-05 | 1 | 9 | 175 | 203 |
| | 2005-06 | 1 | 8 | 175 | 189 |
| | 2006-07 | 1 | 7 | 179 | 178 |
| | 2007-08 | 1 | 8 | 150 | 129 |
| | 2008-09 | 1 | 8 | 139 | 110 |
| South East | 2001-02 | 1 | [1] | 122 | 146 |
| | 2002-03 | 1 | [1] | 148 | 156 |
| | 2003-04 | 1 | 6 | 148 | 148 |
| | 2004-05 | 1 | 8 | 185 | 152 |
| | 2005-06 | 1 | 7 | 191 | 143 |
| | 2006-07 | 1 | 4 | 171 | 127 |
| | 2007-08 | 1 | 6 | 159 | 110 |
| | 2008-09 | 1 | 7 | 160 | 84 |
| South West | 2001-02 | 1 | [1] | 110 | 158 |
| | 2002-03 | 1 | [1] | 124 | 171 |
| | 2003-04 | 1 | 6 | 141 | 163 |
| | 2004-05 | 1 | 6 | 174 | 188 |
| | 2005-06 | 1 | 5 | 169 | 179 |
| | 2006-07 | 1 | 6 | 159 | 151 |
| | 2007-08 | 1 | 7 | 144 | 117 |
| | 2008-09 | 1 | 8 | 142 | 87 |
| West Midlands | 2001-02 | 1 | [1] | 113 | 190 |
| | 2002-03 | 1 | [1] | 112 | 179 |
| | 2003-04 | 1 | 5 | 128 | 205 |
| | 2004-05 | 1 | 6 | 144 | 193 |
| | 2005-06 | 1 | 2 | 145 | 185 |
| | 2006-07 | 1 | 4 | 132 | 151 |
| | 2007-08 | 1 | 4 | 128 | 121 |
| | 2008-09 | 1 | 4 | 138 | 97 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 2001-02 | 1 | [1] | 104 | 161 |
| | 2002-03 | 1 | [1] | 107 | 168 |
| | 2003-04 | 1 | 7 | 118 | 164 |
| | 2004-05 | 1 | 7 | 154 | 162 |
| | 2005-06 | 1 | 5 | 150 | 153 |
| | 2006-07 | 1 | 7 | 142 | 139 |
| | 2007-08 | 1 | 8 | 116 | 114 |
| | 2008-09 | 1 | 9 | 117 | 91 |

[1] Information not available

# INDEX TO THE

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

## OFFICIAL REPORT

**SIXTH SERIES** **VOLUME 494**

## SESSION 2008–2009

*15 June 2009—26 June 2009*

**Printed indexes to Hansard**

This index is produced from the House of Commons Library's Parliamentary Information Management Services (PIMS). It contains references to all material in the bound volume of Hansard.

- At the end of the session a sessional index is produced containing references to material in the bound volumes for the whole session.

**Indexes on the Parliamentary website**

Volume indexes covering material from the beginning of the 1999/2000 session will also appear on the Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk with links to the full text of Hansard.

### *SCOPE*

The indexes include entries covering:

- The content of all material recorded in Hansard, including debates, procedural motions and questions.
- The names of all Members contributing to the Parliamentary business recorded in Hansard.
- The names of some types of Parliamentary business whenever they occur in Hansard. These are 'Ministerial statements', 'Business statements', 'Petitions', 'Opposition days' and 'Estimates days'.

### *ARRANGEMENT*

- All headings are in one word-by-word alphabetical sequence, with Members' contribution entries distinguished from other entries by italics.
- Where a Member contributes to Parliamentary business and is the subject of Parliamentary business there are separate contribution and subject entries, the subject entry coming first.
- Entries beginning 'Mac' and 'Mc' are sorted in one sequence as 'Mac'.
- 'St', when abbreviated for Saint, is filed as 'Saint'.
- Numbers are filed as if spelt out, e.g. '10 Downing Street' as if 'Ten Downing Street'.

## *HEADINGS*

### *Choice of headings*

- *Specificity*—Entries summarise the overall content of a debate or question as specifically as the various PIMS thesauruses allow. For example, Education, Higher education, or the name of a particular university is used depending on the breadth of the item.
- *Name headings*—Specific entries are included for the names of people, places, institutions, organisations, committees, programmes, initiatives, publications and legislation when these constitute the overall subject of an item.
- *Organisations and subjects*—Organisation entries are preferred for material about the general performance, administration and staffing of an organisation (for example, Identity and Passport Service, Standards). Subject entries are preferred for what organisations do as part of their duties (for example, Passports, Fees and charges).

### *Geographical coverage*

- *Subject headings*—Subject headings are assumed to refer to the whole of England, Great Britain or the United Kingdom unless otherwise stated.
- *Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales*—Material relating to the whole of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales is indexed under these headings.
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### *Parliamentary material and business*

- *Material about Parliament*—This is indexed under 'Parliament', the names of the two Houses, the 'Palace of Westminster' and parts of the Parliamentary estate (such as 'Portcullis House').
- *Committees*—Material about committees is indexed under 'Committees', types of committee (such as 'Select committees') and the names of individual committees (such as 'Home Affairs Select Committee').
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- *Legislation*—Entries for Parliamentary proceedings on bills and statutory instruments are entered under their titles. Where the lead word of the bill or statutory instrument does not provide a full or clear indication of the subject there are additional subject entries when the bill or instrument is debated. For example, debates on the 'Child Support Pensions and Social Security Bill' have entries under 'Pensions' and 'Social security benefits' as well as under the title of the Bill.
- *Members' names*—These are given in the form by which the Member prefers to be known.
- *Speaker and Chair*—Contributions by the Speaker and deputies are brought together under the heading 'Speaker and deputies'. Contributions from the chair during Committees of the Whole House are brought together under 'Chairman of Committee of the Whole House'. Significant rulings and statements (as opposed to routine comments) are indicated by the sub-heading 'Rulings and statements' in both cases.

### *Cross references*

- *See* references indicate that all the material has been entered under another heading.
- *See also* references indicate that additional information may be found under another heading.

## *REFERENCES*

- References in the indexes are to columns rather than pages.
- References to debates, but not questions, are accompanied by the date of the item.
- There are separate sequences in Hansard for the material taken on the floor of the House, Westminster Hall sittings, written statements, written questions and ministerial corrections:
  - References consisting of a number by itself indicate material taken on the floor of the House.
  - References ending in 'wh' indicate Westminster Hall sittings.
  - References ending in 'ws' indicate written statements.
  - References ending in 'w' indicate written questions.
  - References ending in 'p' indicate written petitions.
  - References ending in 'mc' indicate ministerial corrections. (Where a volume number is given, the correction appears in a later volume).
- References under all headings except the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in one numerical sequence irrespective of whether the material is taken on the floor of the House, is discussed at a Westminster Hall sitting, is a written statement or is a written question.
- References under the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in numerical sequence under the following headings:
  - *Chamber Debates* (which includes interventions and points of order as well as significant contributions to debates);
  - *Westminster Hall Debates* (covering all debates held as part of the Westminster Hall sittings);
  - *Written Statements* (consisting of ministerial statements issued in writing); and
  - *Questions* (which includes all written, oral and urgent questions).

## *ABBREVIATIONS*

The following abbreviations are used in connection with the progress of bills:

- 1R = First reading
- 2R = Second reading
- Com = Committee stage
- Rep = Report stage
- 3R = Third reading
- res = resolution
- amendt(s) = amendment(s)
- * = matter taken formally without debate or division
- (HL) = Bill starting in House of Lords
- (SP) = Bill in Scottish Parliament.

**Parliamentary background**

- The Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk contains a range of information about Parliament and the full text of some Parliamentary papers and proceedings including Hansard.
- Information on current Parliamentary business is provided in the House of Commons Information Office *Weekly Information Bulletin*, available on the website and from The Stationery Office (020 7873 8499).
- Further information on Parliamentary proceedings and procedures is available from the House of Commons Information Office (020 7219 4272).

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